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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Frontrunner Trump takes CNMI GOP vote in landslide victory

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump last night swept a majority of the votes cast at the local GOP caucus, claiming an overwhelming 343 votes, or 70 percent of the votes cast.

A total of 471 votes were cast in caucuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Sen. Ted Cruz came in second with a total 115 votes.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich earned 10 votes, and Sen. Marco Rubio got a measly five votes.

Trump

As the CNMI caucus is a "winter-take-all" caucus, that means Trump secured all of the CNMI's nine delegates.

"Donald Trump prevailed in the CNMI," said local GOP president James Ada, reading the tally after votes had been counted and certified.

With a total 156 votes, Ivan Blanco earned the most votes cast for three slots open in the delegate race.

Placing second with 125 votes was Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan).

Juanez Reyes received 111 votes for the third delegate seat. The three delegates not selected are automatically alternates.

"I encourages CNMI GOP voters to come out and vote and exercise their right to vote for their preferred presidential nominee," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "I am overwhelmed by the turnout and their

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BASED ON PERMIT PROJECT DATA

CUC power supply 'only good to 2017'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Decisions have to made now on how the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will carry the power demands of the influx of development within the next two years, according to CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho yesterday, as the utility eyes much needed fixes to a damaged power plant engine and aggressive improvements to 30- to 35-year-old facilities.

CUC's short-term plan—to address problems with Power Plant 1—will ensure that the islands' continued base load of 75 megawatts is enough to sustain any development and power supply "only until 2017."

This, though, is based on project

See CUC on Page 4

Saipan Resort to be completed in 16 months

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

In 16 months, the construction of a new 300-room hotel complex in San Antonio will be completed.

This was the promise made by Honest Profit International's contractor Win Win Way Construction during the ceremony for the commencement of its superstructure work yesterday at their site where the Saipan Resort Hotel will soon rise.

Win Win Way's technical director Dr. Jim Kan Hou-Sek made the statement before the representatives of various CNMI government agencies and private companies.

According to Hou-sek, they have finished their pile caps and will now continue with the construction of the building.

During the final piling ceremony

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FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
A traditional Chinese ceremony was done by Honest Profit International and Win Win Way Construction during the commencement of their superstructure work yesterday at their site in San Antonio. The construction of the Saipan Resort Hotel is said to be finished in 16 months.

INSIDE

LOCAL
The Do Re Mi Music School Stringstars kept their winning tradition in the 2016 Tumon Bay Music Festival for the 10th straight year.
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NATION
The tumultuous presidential primary season barreled toward a potentially decisive day for both Republicans and Democrats.
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FOCUS
For years he walked alongside Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, a quiet confidant as she campaigned for democracy in Myanmar. On Tuesday, with her blessing, Htin Kyaw will become the country's president.
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Local

Motion to dismiss lawsuit vs Kan Pacific, BSI placed under advisement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio has placed under advisement the owner of Mariana Resort & Spa's motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by e-gaming facility Club 88 Mariana against the company and Best Sunshine International, Ltd.

Kim-Tenorio conducted the hearing Monday on Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd.'s motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Saipan Entertainment LLC, the owner of Club 88 Marianas.

Kan Pacific counsel Joseph J. Iacopino argued the motion to dismiss. Attorney Daniel T. Guidotti opposed the motion as counsel for Saipan Entertainment.

Also present at the hearing were Imperial Pacific counsel Viola Alepuyo and Department of Public Lands counsel, assistant attorney general Christopher C. Timmons.

Saipan Entertainment is suing Kan Pacific, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, which is doing business as Best Sunshine International, for allegedly not informing the company of Best Sunshine's negotiation to purchase the resort.

DPLS Secretary Marianne C. Teregeyo was also named as co-defendant.

Saipan Entertainment is suing Kan Pacific for breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and fraudulent nondisclosure.

Saipan Entertainment is suing DPL and its secretary in order to enjoin the CNMI government from consenting to any assignment of the resort lease or the resort property until the controversy surrounding the validity of the resort lease is resolved.

Saipan Entertainment is suing Imperial Pacific for intentional interference with contract.

At the hearing, Iacopino noted, among other things that in a paragraph of the complaint Saipan Entertainment admits that Kan Pacific has not yet breached the subject contract with Saipan Entertainment.

Iacopino said Saipan Entertainment in the same paragraph states that Kan Pacific and Imperial Pacific "have not yet consummated the transfer of the resort lease and the resort property to Imperial Pacific…."

"So there's no transfer according to the complaint," Ia-

See MOTION on Page 3

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Manglona grants continued release of woman in fake marriages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday granted the continued release pending appeal as requested by Quiong Lu Pua, a woman who was slapped with a 12-month and one day imprisonment for orchestrating two sham marriages so that her brother and friend could obtain green cards.

Manglona ruled after hearing the parties' arguments that by clear and convincing evidence Pua is not a flight risk.

Manglona also found that Pua's appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit was not filed for the purpose of delay.

The judge determined that defendant's contentions with respect to her sentencing range pursuant to the U.S. sentencing guidelines raised a substantial question of law that had not yet been addressed by the Ninth Circuit.

Manglona also found that if Pua prevails on her appeal, a reduced sentence to a term of imprisonment less than the total of time already served plus the expected duration of the appeal would be likely.

Last July 31, a federal jury found Pua guilty of the charge of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. She was sentenced last January 29.

Pua, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, appealed to the Ninth Circuit to reverse the District Court's denial of her motion for a judgment to acquit her of all charges.

She is also asking the Ninth Circuit to reverse the District Court's findings and application of the U.S. sentencing guidelines and the 12-month and one day prison sentence imposed on her.

Pua likewise has filed a motion requesting the District Court to allow her release pending the outcome of her appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

Pua is currently out of custody on conditions pending notification by the U.S. Marshal Service that the Bureau of Prisons has designated a facility and that she is to report to begin serving her term of incarceration.

In Pua's motion for continued release, Hanson argued that in light of the nature and substance of the issues raised on appeal, the court should grant defendant's continued release pending a decision by the Ninth Circuit on the appeal.

Hanson said Pua's minor son resides with her in Guam and the U.S. Probation Office has possession of the son's passport so therefore, she does not pose a risk of flight.

Hanson said Pua is not a danger to the community as she was not convicted of a crime of violence.

The lawyer added that neither defendant's appeal nor this motion for release are for purposes of delay.

Hanson said the testimonial and documentary evidence in this case does not suggest beyond a reasonable doubt that Pua became a member of a conspiracy to defraud the U.S.

In the U.S. government's opposition, assistant U.S. attorney Russell H. Lorfing disclosed, among other things, that Pua has $70,000 in unexplained income deposited in her account in 2014 and 2015.

Lorfing said with her money, the defendant has the financial means to flee. He said the defendant's ties to a foreign country, extensive contacts in China, and the significant sums of unexplained income suggest the real possibility that she is a flight risk.

Pua's court-appointed counsel Hanson and co-counsel, Benjamin Petersburg, appeared at yesterday's hearing. Pua was not in court as Judge Manglona granted her request to waive her appearance.

According to the minutes of the hearing, U.S. Probation Officer Stephen Guilliot informed the court that Pua has been compliant and is currently on home detention with location monitoring.

Guilliot also disclosed that their office has custody of Pua's and her son's passports.

Petersburg argued for Pua's motion for release pending appeal. Lorfing argued the U.S. government's opposition.

ON $191,400 CIVIL PENALTY CHALLENGE

US Labor seeks court ruling that TDHC lawsuit has no merits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez is asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a ruling that the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's lawsuit that challenges assessment of civil money penalty in the amount of $191,400 against the company has no merits.

Perez, through counsel assistant U.S. attorney Mikel W. Schwab, asked the court to find that the due process violation as claimed by Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. and its president Kwan Man has no record to support, or any legal argument.

In a motion for summary judgment, Perez requested the court to affirm the Administrative Review Board's decision that HKE and Man engaged in repeated and willful violations of the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Schwab said the compliance agreement allowed for the assessment of a civil money penalty, which was appropriate and was assessed without any due process violations.

Schwab said HKE and Man were afforded notice and an opportunity to be heard.

Schwab noted that the record of the case demonstrates that HKE and Man appeared before an Administrative Law Judge, filed numerous briefs, had their arguments considered and discussed by the ALJ, and received full appellate review before Labor Administrative Review Board.

Schwab said indeed the relevant factors for assessing a civil monetary penalty have been reviewed and considered at multiple administrative levels.

In December 2014, HKE and Man filed the lawsuit against Perez, U.S. Labor Wage and Hour Division David Weil, U.S. Labor Wage and Hour Western Regional administrator Ruben Rosalez, and U.S. Labor Wage and Hour Division district director Terrence Trotter for allegedly violating their due process right over their assessment of civil penalty of $191,400.

HKE and Man, through counsel Bruce Berline, asked the court to declare that the compliance agreement that HKE signed with a Labor investigator precludes Perez and co-defendants from assessing a civil money penalty against HKE and/or Man.

HKE and Man requested the court to set aside the decision of Labor Administrative Review that affirmed Labor Administrative Law Judge's holding that HKE violated the overtime provisions of the FLSA and the Administrative Law Judge's imposition of civil penalty of $191,400.

The plaintiffs asked the court to remand the matter back to a Labor Administrative Law Judge with instructions to hold a hearing on the merits regarding the propriety of the civil monetary penalty amount assessed against HKE and Man.

HKE and Man sought the court's order declaring that the portion of the law that allows the Labor Wage and Hour administrator to determine and assess a civil monetary penalty, in general and/or as applied in this case, violates due process.

According to Berline in the complaint, at the time of the investigation, the federal minimum wage provisions had not been extended to the CNMI and federal authority under the FLSA was limited to overtime pay.

MOTION

From Page 2

copino said.

Iacopino said there has been no breach of Saipan Entertainment's purported sublease.

Iacopino said Saipan Entertainment is asking the court to get involved in a matter that is "premature, not ripe, hypothetical and speculative."

He said plaintiff Saipan Entertainment has claimed for breach of contract that has not occurred yet, therefore there is no justification for such claim.

Iacopino pointed out that the essential elements to a cause of action for a breach of contract are the existence of a contract, acts or omissions constituting a breach, and damages.

The lawyer said if any one of these elements is not alleged in the complaint, the lawsuit is deficient and must be dismissed by the court.

He said the complaint does not allege that Kan Pacific has breached contract and instead, it alleges that Kan Pacific "intends" to breach a contract.

"This is not an adequate pleading to support a cause of action for a breach of contract," Iacopino pointed out.

Iacopino added that the complaint does not alleged that Saipan Entertainment has sustained actual damages and instead, alleges what might happen "if" there is a breach someday.

Guidotti said they have good basis in their complaint as it was reported in the newspapers, indicating that Imperial Pacific or Best Sunshine was interested in purchasing Kan Pacific's 2.5 years under the resort lease.

Guidotti said news stories also indicated that Imperial Pacific and Kan Pacific "signed" an agreement obligating Kan Pacific to assign its remaining interest in the resort property to Pacific Imperial.

Guidotti stressed that they did not entirely rely on news reports.

Guidotti said they have to have a good faith basis in bringing the complaint.

Iacopino said there is no allegation that there's lack of performance on Kan Pacific's part pertaining to its sublease deal with Saipan Entertainment.

"They're still there enjoying its business without interruption," Iacopino said, adding that this case is based on a big "if."

On Dec. 18, 2013, Kan Pacific and Saipan Entertainment entered into a commercial sublease agreement. Under the deal, Kan Pacific agreed to lease a commercial space at Mariana Resort to Saipan Entertainment for its Club 88 Mariana facility. Club 88 began its business operations on Nov. 20, 2015.

Guidotti requested the court to allow him to submit an audio recording in their last hearing and have the judge hear for herself.

Iacopino objected to such filing, saying without filing a notice it's entirely improper.

Iacopino said he has never seen this happen in his 35 years of law practice to have a judge hear a recording without a notice for such filing.

Guidotti said the audio recording matter is not outside of the motion to dismiss and is "absolutely relevant."

Guidotti said the audio recording is important because Iacopino made representation to the court that is contrary to what was shown in the last hearing.

See MOTION on Page 4

BSI-linked company acquires Vestcor Village

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

A company associated with Saipan casino investor Best Sunshine International, Ltd. acquired a property in the CNMI, a business move that leaves most of the current tenants only about a month to look for new homes.

Vestcor Village, located in Isa Drive going up Capitol Hill, was recently sold to Colour Palace (CNMI) LLC, a company linked to BSI.

In an interview, prior manager Frank Stroh confirmed the sale to *Saipan Tribune* and said that it was closed on March 11—the same day as termination notices were given out.

"The previous owner of Vestcor resides in the mainland. Negotiations with Best Sunshine have been long term with no knowledge of when a sale may take place," Stroh said.

Stroh said Vestcor is currently at around 90 percent occupancy with most of their tenants on a month-to-month lease.

"The new company, Colour Palace, has issued 30-day termination notices. Consideration of extending that time can be given by the new owner only," Stroh said.

Asked why Vestcor has decided to sell the property, Stroh said, "The information of any sale is confidential between seller and buyer."

A copy of the notices given to residential tenants last Friday, March 11, was obtained by *Saipan Tribune.*

It informed residents about the selling of the property and stated that Colour Palace is now the landlord of the current tenants.

"Colour Palace will exercise its options, when they become available upon closing, to terminate all existing residential leases," the notice stated.

The notice stated that rent checks must now be made payable to East Gain Property Management, Inc. East Gain Global (CNMI) Ltd. was linked to the sale of Flame Tree Terrace last year.

Colour Palace

Called for comments, Colour Palace's authorized representative and who will act as the overall manager for Vestcor, Alice Abueme, told *Saipan Tribune* to contact the main office, which she said was BSI.

According to the CNMI Department of Commerce, Colour Palace was registered April 6, 2015, with former Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez listed as its registered agent.

The phone number registered for Colour Palace was also a BSI office number.

When called, BSI's legal department said that Colour Palace is indeed under BSI, however, legal counsel Viola Alepuyo, in a separate call, said she doesn't have information on the matter.

Other emails sent to BSI were also unanswered as of press time.

Homeless

Due to the sale, several tenants are worried about where they will find new homes especially since there has been a shortage of available units on Saipan since the rise of developments as well as the destruction of Typhoon Soudelor.

A tenant who declined to be named commented that it was how the sale and the notices were made that were bothersome as they will have to move out of their homes in the middle of the month.

A tenant noted that no prior announcements were made regarding the sale and it was only through the 30-day notice that they were informed that they would have to move out.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are also BSI employees currently residing on Vestcor that will also be kicked out of their homes.

According to its website, Vestcor Village is located on 20,000 square meters of land and still has a 3,500-square meter parcel available for further development.

The village consists of 60 apartments in 15 buildings—58 two bedroom-one bath apartments and two three bedroom-two bath apartments. It has a commercial building with 10 deluxe offices and one mini-brewery building with an adjacent restaurant, a 4,000-square-foot retail store, a 2,720-square-foot warehouse, a 2,720-square-foot employee barracks, including two single apartments, among other features and amenities such as a playground and swimming pool.

CUC

From Page 1

chart details provided to the Senate for development plans throughout 2015 to 2016 that could vary and change on how development plans play out.

The projects include construction or renovation at the Kensington Hotel Saipan, Grand Mariana Casino and Hotel Resort, Honest Profit Saipan Resort Hotel, Ocean Vista Resort, Tinian Ocean View Resort Casino, Plumeria Resort (Tinian), Surfrider Resort and Spa and Beach Club, HS Lee Commercial Building, Villora Condotel Residence, Saipan Comfort Homes, Rota Municipal Dump, Kanadan Magpo Homestead (Tinian), and the Beach Road Route 33 Improvement Project.

Led by Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), the Senate called on the first agency in a series of hearings with permitting agencies to ask how the CNMI government will grapple with projects the Senate believes will be of "monumental adverse impact" to the existing infrastructure and the environment.

CUC presented a "system improvements to facilitate CNMI project developments" plan yesterday, as called on by the Senate committee on in earlier letters to CUC, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Department of Public Works.

DPW and BECQ will answer to the Senate today at a 9am meeting.

Palacios wants answers on how the six or seven major developments on the drawing board or permitted under the Coastal Resource Management "umbrella" major siting permit, signed off on by regulatory agencies for island projects, will affect the island.

"We wanted to make sure we are appraised of the present state of different infrastructure of the Commonwealth," said Palacios, in his opening remarks yesterday. Palacios wants to know "if agencies have the capacity" to carry on demands "without adverse impacts" or if they need "improvements" to increase power, water, or wastewater demands.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), for his part, stressed an apparent lack of communication between agencies and a lack of networking, as the detailed in CUC's report.

"I hope we are able to communicate or dialogue today," said Igisomar said, and "set the story straight."

Speaking to senators on "volume" of increased demand in power and water yesterday, Camacho said, "The boom has come at a rapid pace."

"An entire power system improvement and expansion in distribution and hardware size is the solution to this concern," Camacho said during his presentation.

As more developments come on board on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Camacho said, "even more problems arise" and CUC's capacity has to be increased.

"Understand too that the number of these facilities are aged so in some point in the future would have to be replaced," Camacho said.

Camacho said reserves has been adequate, but is a costly aspect of their program.

CUC has four power plants on Saipan, and one each on Rota and Tinian. Saipan's power plant "2" is not operational.

Saipan has a total capacity of 95.05 megawatt "in design" but has available 56.6 megawatts.

Peak demand months in previous years were July 25, 2013, were CUC hit 34.7 MW; June 12, 2014, at 34 MW; July 1, 2015, at 36.3 MW. The peak for 2016 is Jan 27 30.7 MW, but CUC acknowledges they did not hit the peak months of July and June yet.

CUC has 25.7 megawatts in reserve.

Engine one to four at PP1 put out 6 MW each, but carry design capacity of 7.77. And also due to "age," engines five to eight can produce 10 MW, out of a design capacity of 13. That's 48 MW out of intended 81.24 MW, in total.

"Engine number 8 has severe damage on it…it will take a significant amount of time and cost into the millions to repair that particular unit," Camacho said.

PP4 is at peak demand and has a total 14.4 MW capacity but currently has a 8.6 MW reserve, he added.

The engines on Saipan currently in use are 20 to 35 years old and "increased maintenance and unreliable parts supply" result from the age these units.

Engine eight, for one, needs foundation reaper, among others.

But the engine's original equipment manufacture, Camacho said is unable to supply the parts before 16 months, with a commission schedule over 24 months, or "two years if we were try to repair that unit."

CUC needs a short-and-long-term plan, Camacho.

Short-term would be to conduct major repairs in PP1. And repair and replacement of all existing units "need to be considered aggressively."

"Buying a new unit to deal with" engine number 8 "to deal with existing demands or upcoming short term demands," Camacho said, "is more efficient" and would be commissioned "within nine months rather than the two year repair process for that current engine."

"Decisions needs to be made now," Camacho said, citing the length of time to procure engines.

The short-term plan will ensure that the continued base load of 75 megawatts is enough to sustain any development and power supply only until 2017, this is according to the information provided to BECQ, which they shared to the Senate as a development plan.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

SAIPAN

From Page 1

done last October, HPI said it was their mission to open during the end of this year.

Among the problems encountered by HPI was the approval of the work permits of their construction workers, which were delayed.

Currently they only have 20 construction workers and about 100 are expected to arrive early April from China and Hong Kong.

Hou-sek said they have about 200 work permits more that are pending.

"We tried to recruit local labor," Hou-sek said, adding that they are also looking into training local laborers.

One problem that they encountered, he said, was that applicants don't come in for interviews.

"This island belongs to them. Hopefully we can get more local people to participate in the project," Hou-sek said.

Chan said they will try to minimize the delay.

"We'll catch up with the schedule as much as possible," HPI president Sam Chan said, adding that they will start with the construction right away.

He also said that it is not true that they have workers whose visas are for tourists.

"That's why we slowed down, otherwise, we could've started. That's why we needed permits first," Chan said.

HPI and Win Win Way did a traditional Chinese ceremony yesterday to "pray to the gods for good luck and for everything to go smoothly." They lit and put incense around food offerings as well as in some areas of the site.

Lt Gov. Victor Hocog said the cooperation of the government and the private sector is needed for the success of the project and that he is happy that the delay for the work permits have been resolved.

"We need to work hand in hand to make sure that everything is successful without delay and no major accident," Hocog said.

He added that he is happy to that HPI will finish the project in more than a year's time.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the ribbon-cutting for the finished product," Hocog said.

Hong Kong-based company HPI held the groundbreaking for their $130-million complex in September 2014. The hotel will have 296 rooms and five villas. Their lease is for 25 years, with an option to extend by 15 years for a total of 40 years.

TRUMP

From Page 1

support for my endorsement of Trump. I thank all the voters for participating in this important process for the benefit of the islands."

"I am overwhelmed by the amount of support this evening," Blanco told *Saipan Tribune* last night. "What we do we do for the best of the CNMI. We look forward to attending the Cleveland, Ohio national convention and proudly representing the interests of our great Commonwealth.

The island of Rota supported Trump with 150 votes, and cast 15 for Cruz.

On Saipan, Trump garnered 150 votes, Cruz got 56, and Kasich 10, while Rubio earned one vote.

On Tinian, Trump got 43 votes, Cruz got 42, and Rubio earned four.

"Our party has the momentum as we continue to see turnout exceed expectations, and have set historic highs across the country," said Ninio Fetalvo, RNC APA Press Secretary, in a statement. "Our strength at the polls is a clear sign that the American people not only want to see our country head in a new direction, but are also rejecting the prospect of another Democrat in the White House. What's worse for Democrats, Hillary Clinton has yet to put away a self-avowed socialist, or even win key groups of President Obama's coalition. These are big red flags for Democrats' hopes of keeping the White House in November."

MOTION

From Page 3

Guidotti asked the judge to just listen to the audio as he has own transcript of the hearing, then decide for herself.

Kim-Tenorio denied Guidotti's request.

Guidotti said they allege in the complaint that Imperial Pacific offered $3.5 million to Kan Pacific plus other consideration, conditioned in part on Kan Pacific entering into one or more oral or written agreements that obligate Kan Pacific to deliver the premises to Imperial Pacific free of any claims by Saipan Entertainment.

Guidotti said they have evidence of loss of profit.

Asserting that the complaint will survive a motion to dismiss, Guidotti also noted that they have also claims for fraud and declaratory action.

But Iacopino said until there is real breach of contract, it doesn't matter.

New investor wants to build on beachside property on Saipan

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Chinese investors laid out concepts and investment plans for a "Saipan International Health Resort" eyed on beach and coastline property to members of the Senate on Tuesday.

Led by Eugene Wu, chairman of Conifer Hotels and Resorts, the group of investors presented preliminary plans for a "first class health" resort comparable to other resorts of the kind around the world.

According to their presentation file shared with lawmakers Tuesday, the investors pointed to the "Town of French Evian," located alongside a lake in France facing Switzerland across the lake, that touted spa centers, lake side tourism and holiday areas, among others.

Investors also pointed to the Tucson Valley Farm in the U.S. that boasted world popular spas, health and fitness facilities, and restaurants, among others.

They also pointed to Mt. Peacock Health Resort Park in Hainan, China that provided "leisure vacation" and a design concept of "harmony between man and nature" replete with physical therapy, fitness, spa, and organic food services.

According to the presentation file, investors plan a project covering a total of 10,000 square meters, with a total construction area of 10,0000 to 15,000 square meters.

Estimated total investment runs up to $200 million to $300 million, and project development cycle is about five years, the file said.

"Saipan [with its tropical climate] is a paradise for leisure travel," the document stated. "Saipan has the opportunity to become a world-class health resort over others."

The project invested by the China international investment health association, Conifer Hotel and Resort, Forebase group, China railway group, and Thailand DSM Construction investment.

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Do Re Mi Music School students win anew in TBMF

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Do Re Mi Music School Stringstars kept their winning tradition in the 2016 Tumon Bay Music Festival for the 10th straight year. The Stringstars' quintet won gold in the Ensemble category of last week's annual event that gathers the best musical talent in the region.

Kate Ishida, Judy Kim, Kevin Liang, Justine Xu, and Alan Yu are the members of the Stringstars—considered as the Team A of Do Re Mi instructor and president Ao Zhang, who is a former member of the Tianjin Symphony Orchestra. Xu is the only one based in Guam among the five members.

Kim, Liang, and Yu also competed last year in the Solo category along with Alexander Chen and Jane Torres, who is now studying in the U.S. Kim and Liang won gold, while the rest brought home silvers.

Csárdás by Italian modern/contemporary composer and conductor Vittorio Monti was the Stringstars' winning piece for this year. Monti's piece is played with a piano accompaniment with pianist Miri Kim joining the group in Guam.

The five painstakingly endured more than two months of practicing Monti's piece first individually and as a group in the final weeks before the competition. Their hard work paid off as all three judges gave them scores worthy of the gold.

Zhang said that Xu, a fifth grader at St. John's School, sometimes had to fly to Saipan three times a week either for a one-on-one session or to practice with the group. The four also did the same, flying to Guam just to rehearse with Xu.

"Xu learned the piece in Guam and she sometimes fly here to practice with us. I also taught the four individually then as a group. We also had some rehearsals in Guam and practiced again as a group almost a week before the competition," said Zhang, who added that last year they encountered problems with their flight.

"This time we had no problems with our flight. We decided to go to Guam early for our final rehearsals and also to avoid the same problem that we had last year when our flight first got delayed and then got totally cancelled," said Zhang.

In 2015, Zhang with Kim, Liang, Yu, Chen, and Torres had to book another flight via Korea to Guam where they arrived on the same day of the competition.

Ishida, an eighth grader at Saipan Community School who also performed solo in piano in the TBMF's 12th staging, said Zhang's strict approach every practice paid off big for the quintet.

"If it wasn't for him [Zhang] we would have not won the gold medal," said Ishida.

"He [Zhang] is very strict," added Liang, who is now in sixth grade at Saipan International School.

"Yes, I'm very strict when we practice. I want everybody to work hard but later they would know why I'm strict with them," said Zhang, a graduate of the Tianjin Conservatory of Music, considered to be the Julliard School of China.

Ishida first started learning and playing the piano after seeing her sister as a member of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band. "I wanted to be like my sister. Then I decided to shift to violin when I was 10 years old since I love to learn new instruments." she added.

Kim, a Mt. Carmel School sophomore, said they had to learn how to manage their time with their studies and practice schedule.

Yu, a Marianas High School freshman who started learning how to play the violin when he was 8 years old, said that he plans to pursue a degree in music when he goes to college.

JON PEREZ

Do Re Mi Music School Stringstars members Allan Yu, from second left, Judy Kim, Kevin Liang, and Kate Ishida join instructor Ao Zhang in performing their winning piece yesterday at their music studio in China Town. Justine Xu (inset) is also a member of the group that won gold in last week's 12th Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

M/V *Luta* finally arriving in Rota on Thurs.

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The long-awaited arrival of the M/V *Luta* to the CNMI is finally happening this week.

Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog said the ship, a retrofitted passenger and cargo vessel, will be arriving on Rota tomorrow, Thursday.

Hocog said the ship, which originally came from Louisiana and last docked in Panama, should be very close to Saipan, somewhere near Pagan.

He added that M/V *Luta* also needed to stop by Marshall Islands to bring in one of the crew for medical attention, spending a day.

"It's quite faster than we expected," Hocog said regarding the last leg of the trip.

The arrival of M/V *Luta* has been pushed back for several months now since it was said to set sail last April due to certification requirements and modifications made to the ship.

Hocog said U.S Coast Guard requirements had to be followed.

"It's not something that when you say, you'll buy something, it's going to be here," Hocog said, "We had to follow a lot of regulations because the vessel is U.S."

Hocog said they will have a Christening ceremony on Rota this Saturday where the M/V *Luta* will be home-ported and they are also planning to have an open house for the ship on Saipan.

"After that it's ready to carry cargo and passengers," Hocog said.

In September 2014, Japanese businessman Takahisa Yamamoto invested about $1.6 million in the retrofitted cargo and passenger ship that will bring passengers, agricultural goods, and other consumer items to and from Rota, Saipan, Tinian, the Northern Islands, and Guam.

Yamamoto, from Osaka, Japan, owns Luta Mermaid LLC, the main business of which is to operate M/V *Luta*.

The 150-foot-long, 500-ton cargo ship was in Louisiana to obtain a certificate of inspection from the U.S. Coast Guard. The ship can accommodate 18 passengers and can carry up to 28 20-foot containers.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING
This ad is paid for by the NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the designated Public Housing Authority (PHA) authorized to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program in the CNMI. Federal guidelines provide that the CNMI prepare a PHA Annual Plan for the upcoming fiscal year. NMHC has completed the draft FY 2017 PHA Annual Plan and would like to inform the general public that:

1. NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public for the FY 2017 PHA Annual Plan on April 25, 2016, 3:00 p.m. at NMHC's Conference Room located at the main office in Garapan, Saipan; and
2. NMHC will open the public comment period from March 11, 2016 through April 25, 2016; written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on April 25, 2016 to:
   - Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
     Attn: FY 2017 PHA Annual Plan
     P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950

Any interested persons wishing to express their views on the draft FY 2017 PHA Annual Plan may do so by either attending the public hearing or by submitting written comments to NMHC. Copies of the draft FY 2017 PHA Annual Plan are available for viewing on our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp and during normal business hours at the NMHC Main Office in Saipan, as well as the field offices on Tinian and Rota.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DFEMS-068
SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 140 COMPLETE SETS OF BRAND NEW 2015 MODEL YEAR FIREFIGHTER TURN-OUT GEAR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER OF DFEMS
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/PR-083
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF RIDING MOWER FOR THE DLNR – DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION"
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISON OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART. AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ELICEO D. CABRERA
DIRECTOR, PARKS & RECREATION
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-HSEM-080
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 23, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"PURCHASE, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION WITH TESTING AND TRAINING OF LASERFISCHE RIO SOFTWARE FOR THE HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY"
COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HSEM
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DPS-086
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 11, 2016 TIME: 10:30 A.M.
"SECURITY SERVICES – DPS IMPOUND LOT IN LOWER BASE, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"
Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Divison of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan during regular working hours.
The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.
/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
Commissioner of Public Safety
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

BOE hopes to increase bus drivers' salaries

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education would look into the possibility of increasing the salaries of bus drivers employed by the Public School System. The issue was discussed in Monday's board meeting held at the PSS emergency operations office conference room on Capital Hill.

BoE member Denise "Tanya" R. King said raising their salaries should be a major concern by the board. "Most of the bus drivers are living below the poverty line and sometimes most of them are forced to look for a second job to support their families."

BoE chair Herman T. Guerrero said that a proper compensation for the drivers must also be in place since they are the ones who are driving the kids to and from the school.

"They [bus drivers] need not be tired and they need proper rest when driving the students. Although, we're not sure how much the Legislature will give, there's also the civil service asking the government to increase the salaries of public servants," Guerrero added.

The BoE assured that they would have the sufficient funds for all public schools to continue its operations and the students having the necessary instructors, teachers, and staff.

BoE has also passed yesterday its proposed budget of $39,583,287 for fiscal year 2016-2017.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said they would look into other essentials of each school. "We will be needing additional buildings for next school year and we need to support our other programs. We will also need additional teachers for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

The PSS is also seeking additional funds for its operations with the increase of health insurance premiums, to make all school facilities safe, and adjusting the salaries of administrative and teaching staff.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is also requiring that all buildings that they funded in repairs must also be insured.

Man, 42, allegedly raped minor girl

Police arrested Monday night in Kagman 2, a 42-year-old man who allegedly raped a 12-year-old girl inside a house.

Joseph Seman Epina was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a $25,000 cash bail and appointed assistant public defender Michael Sato as counsel for Epina.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

Epina told the court that he just started working at Docomo.

Police Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that Epina allegedly sexually assaulted the girl who was sleeping at a relative's house on Saturday night.

Pangelinan said a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center examined the girl and found bruising in her private parts.

Pangelinan said that their investigation started on Monday after police received a complaint from a Division of Youth Services personnel about a student who was sexually assaulted.

Two detectives responded to a school and escorted the girl to CHC for examination.

According to the girl, while she was sleeping on the bed Saturday night, she was awakened when Epina was on top of her.

Epina allegedly removed her pants then sexually assaulted her. She said she called out for help, but nobody heard her. She said she tried to resist, but Epina was too strong.

The girl told police that it was not the first time that Epina sexually assaulted her. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Red Cross Walkathon set for April 30

The American Red Cross is proud to announce its 30th Annual Red Cross Walkathon is scheduled for April 30.

The 30th anniversary event will be extra exciting with many special activities including a carnival and health fair, drinks, food, and a T-shirt for all participants. There will be prizes for various categories including student with the most pledges as well as awards and recognition for top schools. The 10K and 5K event will be held on all three islands starting at 6am.

Please mark your calendar, support the Red Cross and plan on a morning of exercise and family fun!

For more information about participating or volunteering, please contact the Red Cross at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

INVITATION FOR BIDS

ITB16-HSEM-075

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER DRIVEWAY AND PARKING IMPROVEMENT, PROJECT NO. HSEMA-2016-001, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) are soliciting sealed bids for the Driveway and Parking Improvement Project at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Capitol Hill, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available on or after **March 09, 2016** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located at Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **$18.75** to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid package in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 16, 2016**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Emergency Operations Center, Capitol Hill. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 18, 2016** to **Mr. James R. Rabauliman, Procurement Officer of HSEMA Bureau of Administration and Grants Services,** at Government Quarters NO. 1313, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 664-2218. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examined and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matter relative there to is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4;30 pm to **Mr. James R. Rabauliman, Procurement Officer of HSEMA Bureau of Administration and Grants Services,** at Government Quarters No. 1313, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 664-2218.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids, the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Procurement Officer of the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO choose, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the Procurement Officer of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency at (670) 664-2216 no later than five (5) calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked, **"ITB16-HSEM-075"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than **1:00 p.m. local time March 28, 2016.**

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **1:00 p.m. local time, March 28, 2016** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-155, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 05, 2016** and the bid documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill no later than **March 28, 2016.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan at **1:00 p.m. local time, April 13, 2016.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **1:00 p.m. local time, on March 28, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certificate (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contract shall submit:

a. A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b. Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligation) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1. Cash
2. US Gov't. Securities
3. Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4. Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5. Irrevocable Letter of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the standard Specification for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-03

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Special Assistant
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

PUBLIC NOTICE

OF CUC'S PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER ELECTRIC CHARGES, ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE, AND PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 13-15, 2016

This is a notice of a formal request to eliminate the Water Electric Charge (WEC) and Wastewater Electric Charge (WWEC) and to increase the electric rates, fees and/or charges of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), ("Rate Case"), and of the public hearing before the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) which regulates CUC pursuant to Public Law 15-35, as amended.

On April 23, 2015, CUC filed a petition and supporting evidence with the Commission to remove the WEC and WWEC in favor of an electric surcharge under Rate Case Docket No. 15-03. This petition was amended on March 10, 2016, for the sole purpose of modifying the proposed electric surcharge under the petition from $0.0194 per kWh to $0.01369 per kWh. This elimination of the WEC and the WWEC in favor of an electric surcharge of $0.01369 kWh will become effective on May 18, 2016, or as otherwise determined by the Commission.

On March 10, 2016, CUC filed a petition and supporting evidence with the Commission to raise its electric fees and charges, under Rate Case Docket No. 16-01. CUC is requesting that the Commission approve the establishment and implementation of a "Disaster Recovery Surcharge" in the amount of $0.0145 per kWh for a period of one year and a "Capital Improvements Surcharge" of $0.0225 per kWh for a period of two years. These increases, if granted, will become effective on **May 18, 2016**, or as otherwise determined by the Commission.

The Commission will conduct a public hearing on **April 13-15, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.**, at CUC's main conference room (Room 17), third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the above regulatory matters in Dockets 15-03 and 16-01. The Commission will later conduct a special business meeting on May 18, 2016, to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing.

CUC is required by statute and a U.S. District Court Stipulated Order to achieve "full cost recovery." This means that CUC's revenues must fully cover the cost of providing service to its ratepayers. CUC's costs include the costs of maintenance, repair, materials and supplies, labor, replacement of water and sewer pipes, pumping and treatment facilities, vehicles, meters and other equipment. CUC demonstrates in the Rate Case that it is currently operating at a substantial deficit, cannot borrow money, and relies entirely on the revenues from its customers and federal grants. CUC suffered substantial damage to its utility infrastructure as a result of Typhoon Soudelor on August 2, 2015. The "Disaster Recovery Surcharge" and the "Capital Improvements Surcharge" are intended to recover revenue to pay for the repair and restoration of CUC's infrastructure and to recover its capital improvement expenditures. The proposed rate increases, through the surcharges, are critical in order for CUC to achieve and maintain financial health.

CUC requests that the CPUC modify its WEC and WWEC policies to eliminate the charges and replace them with an electric surcharge. This will lessen the burden on residential ratepayers relative to their water and wastewater charges.

The Rate Case filings are available on CUC's website at: http://www.cucgov.org. Please click on "Regulatory Matters/Public Utilities Commission" then click on "March 10, 2016 Rate Application – Docket No. 15-03" and "March 10, 2016 Rate Application – Docket No. 16-01" to view or download the documents. A written copy of all petition materials will also be available for inspection at the following places: CUC Admin Office: Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Evaluation for Manila's condition expected this week

A representative from the Philippine Consulate in Agana, Guam said an evaluation for prisoner Reynaldo A. Manila's medical condition after undergoing a medical procedure in Guam is expected to be done this week.

Consul Gary Auxilian said that Manila is now recovering in Guam after the operation.

"I understand he had an eye operation already and I think there will be an evaluation by the doctor who is attending him," Auxilian said.

Manila was allowed to go to Guam last Jan. 29 after the administration made the necessary arrangements for him to seek medical treatment in Guam as required under the CNMI Constitution.

The treatment, which was needed to prevent permanent blindness, was said to have taken place on Jan. 31. He is to stay at the Guam Adult Correctional Facility for recovery.

Auxilian added that Manila wanted to come back to Saipan after the medical procedure.

"When is he coming back? We don't know," Auxilian said.

While on Saipan last Tuesday, Auxilian visited four Filipinos who are currently imprisoned.

"We extended help, even just through our short visit, to give them some inspiration and assistance. We gave them some financial help for them to call their families and also for their personal needs," Auxilian said.

The financial help was provided by the Philippine government and was supposed to have been given last Christmas.

"That's normal that we assist our *kababayans* in jail," Auxilian said, "Although it's not part of the regular budget that every time we visit, we give them something."

"They were so thankful with our visit and the little help that we were able to extend our help," he added.

Auxilian also added that they are currently working on helping the repatriation of a 66-year-old Filipino on Saipan who recently suffered a stroke.

He said the Filipino doesn't have any family on Saipan and relies on friends for help.

"We're trying our best in Guam and we have communicated already with our office in Manila. We're just waiting for the approval when and how he can go home. As soon as we get the approval, we will work on the arrangement," Auxilian said. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH THE PRESIDENT

Prior to the U.S.-ASEAN Summit, President Barack Obama and Margaret Cui Lijie, majority shareholder of Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd.-Best Sunshine International Ltd., met in California last month. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Torres is Commerce acting CSD director

The Central Statistics Division of the CNMI Department of Commerce has an acting director.

Tom Torres, who has been with Commerce for more than 10 years, is now in acting capacity after Alfonsis Sound left the position around mid-August last year.

Torres started at CSD in 1991 and left in 1999 to serve the local labor and immigration office. He was the Labor and Immigration Identification and Documentation System director until federal immigration took over in 2009.

He came back to Commerce during the early part of 2012, during the time when the department started their information technology unit.

"He was heading that unit which is an extension of the Secretary's Office. As we moved forward with the departure of our director, Alfonsis Sound, I tasked him to be the acting director to help out the team," Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman said.

Torres started serving as acting CSD director sometime around the beginning of the year.

Aside from his Cabinet duties, Rabauliman has been serving as the acting director when Sound left and prior to Torres' assignment to the role.

In September, he has stated their plans to look into getting someone from their office to be the acting director in the interim due to the challenges brought by Typhoon Soudelor to their workflow. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman School PTSA meeting cancelled

We regret to inform the Kagman School's stakeholders, that the PTSA meeting will not be held in this month of March. The meeting originally scheduled March 17 is canceled. The next meeting will be held on April 21 from 5pm to 6pm at Kagman Elementary School. Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact PTSA secretary Leila Staffler at 664-3780 or email her at leila.staffler@cnmipss.org. ***(PR)***

Auditions for the hit musical 'Hairspray' on March 17 and 19

Friends of the Arts is holding auditions for "Hairspray" on March 17 and March 19. Roles are available for ages 11 to 40+. All should come prepared to sing as well as read for the audition.

If you are interested in being in one of the most high-energy Broadway shows to ever hit the stage, then contact MariLou or leave a message at 256-9540. Performances are scheduled for May 5, 6, and 7. ***(PR)***

Military to conduct training at W-517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The Navy and Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- March 15-17 from 8am to 10pm
- March 18 from 8am to 6:30pm

The Navy and Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- March 14 and 17 from 9am to 9pm
- March 15-16 and 18 from 9:30am to 9pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the area during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 16, 2000

$1 coin now in CNMI

Bank of Saipan officials yesterday formally presented to CNMI officials the first U.S. golden dollar coins that have arrived on the island. Tomas B. Aldan, BoS president and chief executive officer, and Maggie Camacho, operations manager, handed the coins to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial. According to Mr. Aldan, the coins were sent to BoS from the mainland the other day and are now in circulation, but supplies are limited so that the bank can't accommodate large request for this coin at this time.

USFW grants $160K for Rota marina construction

With a $160,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sports Fish Restoration-Boating Access Program, the Rota Marina will be completed before the end of the year. According to Division of Fish and Wildlife Director Richard Seman, Rota marina will have a minimum of 16 slips which can later on be expanded once the funds are available. An architectural and engineering firm has already been chosen to do the job in Rota marina. Currently, DFW is also working on the repair of Tinian marina which has 16 slips. The island-municipality of Rota has been waiting for the completion of the marina which can help attract tourists on the island and assist in the promotion of sports fishing.

March 16, 2001

DPS to have new impound yard

The Department of Public Safety will soon have a new facility for confiscated vehicles as the government begins soliciting bids from private companies for the project. The new DPS Impound Yard/Maintenance and Repair Facility will be erected at the former Air Force Radar Tracking Station in Marpi. The project calls for the renovation of one of the old PACBAR buildings for the exclusive use of DPS. The Department of Public Works said the scope of the work will be made available by its Technical Services Division to interested contractors on Monday.

DPW will hold a pre-bid conference on Thursday next week at the project site in Marpi, while sealed bids will be publicly opened on April 3.

CPA submits findings on fuel leak to DEQ

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is ready to embark on a massive cleanup operations as it explores ways to provide immediate solution to a contamination case caused by jet fuel leak at the Saipan International Airport. Ports authority officials underscored the need to completely and promptly address environmental protection issues surrounding the fuel leakage at the Saipan airport to prevent spread of suspected vapor contamination. CPA, through its consultant Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting, submitted to the Division of Environmental Quality reports on its extensive leak investigation including laboratory and investigation plans. CPA officials earlier disclosed that at least 14 water wells near the airport area were earlier inspected and three of these supply wells are continuously being monitored in a regular basis by APEC and the Tetra Tech.

March 16, 2005

House defers action on poker arcade bill

Failing to reach a consensus, House members decided yesterday to defer action on a bill that aims to mandate the removal of poker arcades from residential villages. It may be acted on today as the House resumes its session this morning.

House majority leader Rep. Oscar M. Babauta said that House Bill 14-267 addresses the concerns aired by the community on the social ills caused by poker arcades. As proposed, he said, poker shops would only be allowed to operate along the main thoroughfares, namely the Middle Road and Beach Road. "There's a compelling concern from the community that clients have continued to be on the rise. So we need to control it. This measure prohibits the proliferation of poker [arcades] in the residential areas," said Babuata. It also prohibits operations of these machines adjacent to or within the same facility or complex and under the same roof where commercial laundromats or grocery stores are located. Also, the bill prohibits promotion of giveaways or other prizes "if the purpose of such program is to attract or induce more customers."

DPH assures enough flu vaccines for high-risk patients

The Department of Public Health admitted yesterday that the CNMI lacks enough flu vaccines to treat its population of over 75,000. DPH Medical Director Dr. Richard J. Brostrom said, however, that there is actually no shortage since health agencies use a formula to determine the amount of vaccine stored in their pharmacies. Brostrom said the number of flu vaccines carried by a certain locale is based on its population ratio. Brostrom said that, right now, the DPH and the Community Health Center only has less than 200 flu vaccines.

216 avail of services in Lions clubs health fair

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of District 204 Region 2 Lions, composed of Saipan Fil-American Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Tinian Marianas Lions Club, and Rota Marianas Lions Club, pose for a group photo with district governor Daniel Yang, center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The annual health fair organized by District 204 Region 2 Lions last March 13 at the Joeten Dai-Dai Social Hall of Mt. Carmel Cathedral drew 216 people.

Lions Clubs International, District 204, Region 2 held its annual health fair at the Joeten Dai-Dai Social Hall of Mt. Carmel Cathedral last March 13. The medical mission was open to the public and was able to service 216 participants. The free services include blood pressure check, sugar/glucose test, eye check and immunization. With almost 300 people avail the free reading glasses.

The service providers are from NMC Nursing Club, CHCC Nurses, CHCC Immunization Program, Guam Marianas Lions Club, and Paradise Dental Clinic, which provided free teeth vanishing to kids below 14 years old.

The Lions clubs are greatly thankful to all donors: TSL Foundation, IT&E, PHI Pharmacy, Barny's Pizza, Northern Marianas Bartender's Association, Jet Holding Company, Kautz Glass Company, National Office Supply, Sun Palace Hotel, Trader's Insurance, Coca-Cola Company, Ms. Bhiya Canadalla of Happy Market, Cosmos Distributing Company, honorary consul Eli Arago, Annamae Adaza, D&Q Saipan, D' Elegance Café, Saipan Ice & Water Company, Wushin LP Gas, Gold Ribbon Snack Bar & Bakeshop, KFC/Taco Bell, LD Prime Corporation, Fongs Bakery, The Lounge Bakery, and Shirley Wilson Catering Services.

The District 204 Region 2 Lions are: Saipan Fil-American Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Tinian Marianas Lions Club, and Rota Marianas Lions Club. Also the Saipan Marianas Alpha Leo Club assisted the health fair.

The district officials from Guam joined the medical mission headed by district governor Daniel Yang, first vice district governor-elect Art Navarro, past district governor Goring Duenas, PDG Romy Angel, from Guam Marianas LC Jomar Canlas, June Depakakibo, and Neil Mercado, who conducted the eye check during the health fair, according to chair Canape. She also extended her gratitude and appreciation to all officers and members of the Lions clubs and to all volunteers who devoted their time just to help out.

"The medical mission is an annual event that is part of the Region 2 Lions' community services," zone chair Mayuga said.

Lions clubs are ready to help, they are making a difference around the world. That's because whenever Lions clubs gets together, problems get smaller and communities get better. With 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members in over 200 countries makes Lions Club International the world's largest service organization. To learn more about Lions clubs, check their website at www.lionsclubs.org or contact a Lion member.

For any inquiry, call Region 2 chair Ladyvir Canape at 989-2545, Zone chair Lion Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, Saipan Fil-American LC president Annamae Adaza at 483-5237 and Saipan Marianas LC president Olive Yana at 233-3854. ***(PR)***

Arctic Circle Air Company

ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

to be held at PIC Hotel (NAPU Room)

Date: March 31, 2016 at 11:00 AM

For Further information call (670) 288-8877

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
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Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: March 15, 2016

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Proposed Rule for Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (Purse Seine Observer Requirements, and Fishing Restrictions and Limits in Purse Seine and Longline Fisheries for 2016-2017 (RIN 0648-BF76). NMFS proposes this rule to carry out obligations of the United States under the Convention of the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. The proposed rule would (1) require that U.S. purse seine vessels carry observers on fishing trips in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO); (2) establish restrictions in 2016 and 2017 on the use of fish aggregating devices by the U.S. purse seine vessels in the WCPO, and (3) establish limits in 2016 and 2017 on the amount of bigeye tuna that may be captured by U.S. longline vessels in WCPO.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. NMFS has determined that this proposed rule is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with enforceable policies of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Coastal Zone Management Program, and is requesting that DCRM conduct this review for concurrence pursuant to section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (33 U.S.C. 1456(c)(1)(C)).

More information on the NMFS Proposed Rule for Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species can be found at DCRM's website: http://ow.ly/ZsjUV

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at erinderrington@becq.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on March 16, 2016 and ending on March 31, 2016 in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies and still allow DCRM to issue its concurrence or objection within the sixty (60) day response period. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION PRIVATE

As of March 15, 2016

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Sarandos Markos	02/02/2016 SPI-2016-X-008	Drydock	Able Dock	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 02/16/2016
2. Michael E. Dilley	02/02/2016 SPI-2016-X-007	Land Clearing	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 02/04/2016
3. Big Eye, LLC	02/08/2016 SLRm-2016-X-009	SCUBA Diving Operation	Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
4. AC USA	02/12/2016 SSm-2016-X-010	Stormwater Drainage & Construction of 2 Taga Houses	Garapan	Shoreline	Approved, 02/18/2016
5. PSS Tanapag Elementary	02/08/2016 SCHm-2016-X-011	Structural BMP's	Tanapag	Coastal Hazard	Approved, 02/18/2016
6. Pacific Subsea Saipan Inc.	02/17/2016 SPI-2016-X-012	Drydock	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 02/18/2016
7. YM Micronesia Inc.	02/10/2016 SS/T/R/LRm-2016-X-013	Filming & Photography	Saipan, Tinian, Rota & Managaha	Shoreline	Approved, 02/25/2016
8. Conrad S. Hofschneider	02/26/2016 SPI-2016-X-014	Drydock	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 03/01/2016
9. Saipan Sea Ventures	03/03/2016 SPI-2016-X-016	Drydock	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 3/09/2016
10. Huang Chuan Fu	3/07/2016 SS-2016-X-017	Three Story Motel	Garapan	Shoreline	Approved, 3/10/2016
11. Commonwealth Utilitiies Corporation (CUC)	2/23/2016 SPIm-2016-X-018	Waterline & Pressure Improvement	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 3/11/2016
12. Marianas Visitors Authority	3/04/2016 SS/T/R/LRm-2016-X-014-1	Filming & Photography	SPN/Tinian/Rota/ Managaha	Shoreline/Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
13. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	3/07/2016 SPIm-2016-X-019	Power Plant Radiator Footing Replacement	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
14. National Park Service (NPS)	3/04/2016 SS/Wm-2016-X-020	Green Waste Clearing & Backfilling	American Memorial Park	Shoreline & Wetland	Under Review*
15. John T. Sablan	3/09/2016 SPI-2016-X-021	Drydock	South Sea Port	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
16. Office of the Mayor, Saipan	02/22/2016 SCHm-2016-X-022	Road Repair	Naftan, Saipan	Coastal Hazard	Under Review*
17. Office of the Mayor, Saipan	02/22/2016	Road Repair	Laolao Beach	Shoreline, Coastal Hazard	Under Review*

§15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulation requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Federal legislation a threat to wolves and wilderness

If you think the problem with modern America is that there are too many wolves, a bill passed in February by the U.S. House of Representatives probably made your day. If you think there has been more than enough killing of them over our history, however, the measure is cause for alarm.

The legislation, titled the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act (SHARE), has the enthusiastic support of the National Rifle Association, the National Shooting Sports Foundation and conservative House members. It stems from resentment of the very idea that the federal government should control millions of acres of land and manage it for broad national purposes.

One of those purposes is restoring and preserving endangered species, such as the gray wolf. Some 2 million of them once lived on this continent, but only a few thousand remain. The bill would expose this iconic beast to hunting and trapping in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Wyoming — with predictable consequences.

The Obama administration de-listed the species, only to be later overruled by federal courts. During the time the wolves lacked their former protection in the Great Lakes region, reports the Humane Society, 1,500 of them died at the hands of humans.

The SHARE Act would not only deprive wolves of federal protection but also bar court challenges to this policy. The only reason to bar court challenges, of course, is to avoid having the legal weakness of your case exposed.

The measure shows a distressing indifference to some basic environmental concerns. It would waive federal environmental reviews for management decisions on 150 million acres of public land. It would prevent the government from banning the use of lead fishing tackle, bullets and shotgun pellets — what the NRA refers to, charmingly, as "traditional ammunition."

But lead pollution is harmful to wildlife, which is why this type of ammo has been banned for hunting waterfowl since 1991 — and why most states have added restrictions of their own. California has entirely outlawed its use for hunting. Nonlead options are widely available and widely used. Even the U.S. military has chosen to make the switch.

The House legislation also would open up wilderness lands to road construction and mechanized vehicles, which raises the question:

What part of "wilderness" do the supporters not understand?

There are plenty of federal lands that are open to these activities, because the vast majority of what the feds own is not designated as wilderness. But the goal of the Wilderness Act of 1964 was to preserve areas "where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Roads and dirt bikes have their place — elsewhere.

The fate of the SHARE Act now rests with the U.S. Senate, which ought to reject it. Wolves, wilderness and the environment deserve better.

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The Ides of March

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

A friend who shepherds a school, emailed to say, he was to be counted as a fourth reader after our "three readers" article. A neighbor makes the fifth one. He admonished a fortnight ago that I be careful on which Religious Order I assign monks and monastics, priests and friars to, a parade of my irreverent pseudo-learning.

I called Martin Luther a Dominican monk; he was an Augustinian friar. The battle lines between the Augustinians and the Dominicans are clearly drawn and well laid. There is no love lost between the Orders and to mistake one for the other shows supreme ignorance. It is just like identifying a betel nut chewing indigene a cultural relic that must be preserved. Adding insult into injury, I called the Doctor of the Church, Thomas Aquinas, as belonging to the Society of Jesus, when the SJs did not yet exist. He was a Dominican. Mea Culpa. Mea Culpa. Mea maxima culpa.

The Ides of March preceded the Catholic Church, or, at least, Shakespeare's version that dramatized the assassination of Roman warrior par excellence, Julius Caesar. The hero was stabbed in the Senate Forum in 44 BC, an event that triggered a Civil War, a turning point in Rome's history. Octavius Caesar grabbed power and on Julius' 4th year death anniversary, he executed 300 members of the Senate in retaliation against the assassination.

The Ides of March before Caesar was a famous Roman holiday observed on the first full moon of the solar New Year. Shakespeare's celebrated story has a seer warning Caesar to "beware of the Ides of March." On the designated day, Julius ran into the seer on his way to the Forum, blithely telling her that the Ides had come and nothing has happened, to which the seer replied, "Yes, ... but not gone." Great story by a great storyteller!

Destiny, of course, is neither determined by the formation of stars, or the reading of bird entrails; not even by a finger of fate that purports to direct one's future. Destiny is the product of choice, if not physiologically based, at least, psychologically related. I choose the perspective I bring to any given situation, the situation itself being neutral.

The world of spirits as an Other World beyond this world is passé, truthful as a metaphor in the time of superstition but toothless before the ordinary power of choice, and it is in there that we locate the profundity of our humanity.

Depth on the foreboding characterizes this day; also occasions dramatic turning points to occur. But there is nothing automatic. It occurs or it doesn't. One thing for sure can happen; we can choose to make it happen, or not happen. The happenstance of choice reigns supreme. We make it happen, or it does not happen at all!

In an era of selfies, I sound like an oracle for self-righteous deliverance. Well, I do stand for the self-sustaining, the self-reliant, self-confident, in short, the self-conscious mode of existence. Moralists among us have nothing to do with the "self" as it allegedly stands on the way of relating meaningfully to others. But the "self," fully understood, is the physiology, the psychology, and the relational that are not only personal but also social and planetary.

The "self" realistically defined is an act of self-consciousness, and if that consciousness is realistic, it will define itself in relation to its dependence and interdependence with other human beings and to an organic as well as dynamic planet. Others fling that self-consciousness in the eternity of time and the infinity of a universe, inviting the ancient practice of paying obeisance to the unknown, in the poet's language, the "unknown Unknown!"

In the famous Kierkegaard formula: "The self is a relation which relates itself to its own self, or it is that in the relation that the relation relates itself to its own self; the self is not the relation but that the relation relates itself to its own self." Huh? That a worship of a god? Søren adds: "The most common form of despair is not being who you are."

My self-consciousness is limited, 86 years of being me, my covenant with life in which I play out my unique, unrepeatable gift of life into human history, same as everyone else. "There has never been one like me before, nor will there be another one ever again," just like you. I am not overly concerned about being remembered, nor am anxious to lay out an inheritance for the incoming generation. My glory is with the 86 years I appropriated as my jig in this planet; everything else is gravy!

Am I repeating myself? Well, for more than 2,000 years, we've treated this first full moon of the New Year as a day of "bad luck." Mayhap, it is time to turn it around and make it a day for constructing and innovating, creating and birthing something new. The self senses, feels, and thinks. The self's "does", so I can decide this day to be the glorious self I know I am. It is plain and simple.

Fortune and misfortune happens because we make them happen. Period. Decide well.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Voter discontentment

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Why is there such discontentment and distrust in government? The answer is obvious and voters won't have any second thoughts revealing their true sentiments this year. Yep! It's the trashing of the public interest while waltzing with rich partners that has cemented total distrust in public officials.

Coincidently, the dangerous relationship mirrors exactly the disconnect nationwide between the average citizen who're tired of being stampeded by their elected representatives who instantly slide into corporate partnership that offer them comfortable future after leaving office. Trump's meteoritic rise attests to the large following he's pulled from both establishment parties.

These are the folks who promise brighter tomorrows but started singing a different tune upon officially taking their oath of office. The interest of "we the people" was trashed in favor of their new boss who's turned them into lapdogs in both chambers and the administration.

Middle Finger: Furthermore, voters from both sides of the Pacific Divide have ably raised a huge flag via their fat middle fingers declaring, "No Mas." Ooops! "It's our turn!" Yes siree! Enough promises riddled with staples of negligence and demagoguery!

Perplexing the promises made on issues by our so-called representatives. Yet they now are struggling to recall if they said what they said or thought they said. How convenient the shift in paradigm! Eh, our IQ is still above average lai!

A good example what happens to an island community where there's too much of a good thing is in the Republic of Belau. Local businesses have been displaced when the Chinese came in even with their bus system. Small Palauan businesses are now outside of Koror. Would they survive competition from sophisticated financing and business operations?

This is exactly the path the blurred eyed so-called representatives have opted for "we the people" with such arrogance that they end up ignoring who placed them in office. Well, we may not have the money but sufficiently equipped with the power of the pencil to oust them from office this November. It has come down to "now or never" in our collective effort to retain the traditional heritage of the indigenous people.

Development: It may sound politically correct to ring the alarm bell on development specifically how much does the NMI needs. Realistically though the issue is left floating in air exacerbated by the lack of a fully thought-out plan how this administration addresses rebuilding a devastated and heavily stagnated economy.

The billions of dollars we've seen published are still in the planning stages waiting in the wings. There's Best Sunshine's "integrated resort" that must have disintegrated given the muted voices of the firm what the plan entails from A-Z. Would the plan follow emplacement of basic infrastructure in remote places? Does the NMI have the CIP funds for this purpose and hasn't it already started dipping into CIP money to pay its $30-plus million in utility debts?

Would Chinese investment boldly descend or wouldn't escalating regional tension with the U.S. turn their plans into a contingency until further notice?

While I'm pro-growth given the heavy revenue losses we've seen here since the shutter of the apparel industry and exodus of Nippon investments, the issue still merits thorough review to ensure they fall within what we could afford via CIP funds and paced growth.

The loss: The NMI's loss is about $7 billion. Without proper infrastructural emplacement nothing moves. Sure, a half-cocked politician could assert we could have capitalism if we feed the poor. It's the complete opposite in that we need fresh investments (capital) first to provide jobs where people could be employed and live decently with their families meeting basic needs.

Recalled some 8-10 years ago when our people simply upped and left home for greener pasture elsewhere because they were jobless and couldn't pay for the first family home. More than 3,000 families did this forcibly given the wraths of the lack of job opportunities. Those who took loans to build office space and businesses had to endure foreclosures when business took a nosedive. It was hard all the way around. I also came close to losing the only family home.

If we stay closer to home and critically address and resolve issues responsibly it could trigger the beginning of rebuilding a long stagnated economy as difficult as it may be. It's our responsibility to do so.

KUMHO deal: There's the glaring example of the KUMHO (Laulau Bay) deal where the indigenous people were screwed royally, too. Top brass granted KUMHO some $26 million in Qualifying Certificate (tax break) in addition to dirt cheap land lease that was appraised as though raw land. DPL paid for basically all other expenses that should have been shouldered by the firm.

Shortly thereafter KUMHO sold the development and left. What did we get out of this deal as permanent landowners of the property? None! I call the decision fecal leadership where our interest was prostituted by top guns o the hill! It's a case of glaring and humiliating ineptitude!

It is for this reason that I've advocated revisiting the QC Law to ensure that we don't end up as servile bystanders on investments that should be founded on the basis of lasting partnership.

For all we know BSI's IR plan (provided it is right-sized) may be good for the island. Nonetheless, we still need to see its breadth or size so it stays within our prism of paced growth! Saipan is an island and I'd like to keep it that way rather than see it change into a metropolis that effectively emasculates our people of their traditional heritage.

Be it BSI, Alter City. and others proposing huge projects here it's good to know the deal in terms of size, QC deal so we compare it versus investments to see if it's worth it. The elected elite must buckle down to real time home planning for the entire nine yards requires the participation of all sectors of the community.

Let's raise the smoking age to 25

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, teaches in the English Department at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas. Readers may send him email at jcrisp@delmar.edu.*

California made a bold move last week by passing legislation that raises from 18 to 21 the legal age for purchasing and using tobacco products. If Gov. Jerry Brown signs the measure, California will join Hawaii and a number of major American cities that ban anyone younger than 21 from smoking legally.

Laws that limit Americans' freedom to smoke — combined with higher cigarette taxes and public awareness campaigns — have transformed the face of smoking in America in a good way. The National Center for Health Statistics reports that about 18 percent of Americans are smokers, a rate down significantly from 1997, when almost 25 percent smoked.

Here's how much things have changed: Granted, it's been a while, but when I was in graduate school, no one paid much attention when professors lit a cigarette during class; this year the college where I work established a smoke-free environment, forbidding any use of tobacco anywhere on campus.

I don't smoke and don't plan to start; you probably don't either. Still, I'll admit to some ambivalent feelings about the pressure being put on smokers. We should probably always be wary when government regulation rubs up against personal freedom; friction is inevitable and there's rarely a vivid, clear line between what's right and what's wrong.

But more important is the premise that smoking is a very, very bad habit. And while we should be extremely reluctant to limit the freedom of adults to do just about anything they want — no matter how self-harmful — we should err on the side of boldness in favor of laws that prevent young people from beginning to smoke.

So, good for California and Hawaii, and may other states follow suit.

In fact, let's consider a significantly bolder step: Raising the smoking age to 25.

In realistic terms, this is unlikely to happen. Any proposal to raise the age to 25 would be particularly vulnerable to the objection most often raised against a drinking age of 21: If, at 18,

See SMOKING on Page 13

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Torres and Trump

On March 11, 2016, I was extremely disappointed to have learned that our local leaders, especially Gov. Ralph Torres, made the decision to publicly endorse Republican Presidential candidate Donald J. Trump and his campaign to be our next Commander-in-Chief. Never in my life have I ever been so embarrassed not just as an American of this great nation, but also as a young Chamorro born and raised in the Northern Mariana Islands.

I am in no position to speak on behalf of the people of the CNMI, so I will leave that to our "elected" officials and aspiring politicians. However, I stand with every other Chamorro-American citizen of our Commonwealth, at home and abroad, who DO NOT WANT Mr. Trump to become the next President of the United States of America.

Now, I am very neutral when it comes to politics because I have seen how "being on the wrong side" can rip apart families and friends. However, I can no longer stand idle to the absurdity and political upheaval that Mr. Trump displays at his campaign rallies and the Presidential debates witnessed by the rest of America and her allies. I am sorry Governor Torres, but Donald Trump is not and will never be the best choice for our Commonwealth.

Our one chance to let our voices be heard in Washington has been WASTED on a candidate who incites violence and racism. Now, don't get me wrong he is a "smart" man, spending millions of his own money to hire the SMART individuals who do the research for him, meanwhile he studies the "cliff-notes" in preparation for his rallies and debates.

I have the seen the videos of his "political" rallies, with his supporters cursing, physically assaulting others. The worst of it being the escorting out of peaceful individuals of different ethnic groups and religions from his events, while he calmly stands there supporting their racial slurs and physical altercations.

Is this really the man, the candidate who you and our elected officials believe will make America great again? Do you support a man who is pathological liar, racist, and supports a pro-white political system?

A man who could not even develop his own plans for the U.S. territories, but decided to adopt the plans of a former candidate?

A man who did not even know of our existence until he decided to run for President?

A man whose greatest plan is to build a wall to block out immigrants? And make Mexico pay for it?

A man who has had more bankruptcies than most people in the world?

Do you honestly believe that he will continue to support our small Commonwealth?

If so, you are the supporter of an agenda that mirrors Hitler's Nazi era. Trump's ideology of racial nationalism will only grow from here.

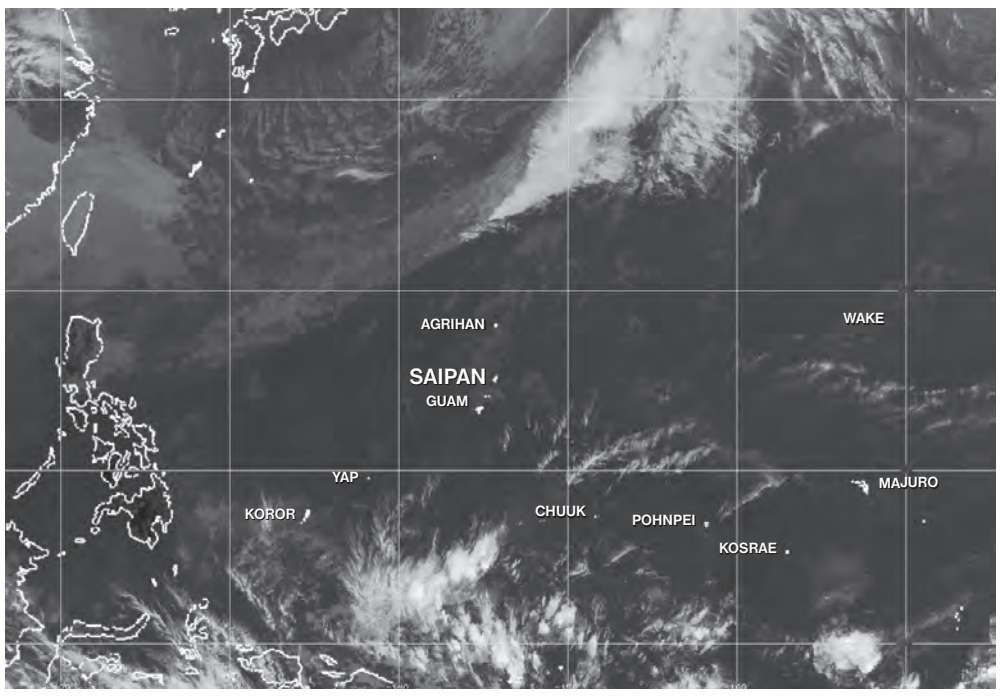
Johnny Tudela Aldan Jr.
Honolulu, Hawaii

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
▲86º ▼75º	▲87º ▼75º	▲87º ▼75º	▲87º ▼75º	▲87º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward through 25N149E to beyond 130E at 17N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present along and up to 250 miles northwest of the front. A surface trough extends southeastward from 6N130E to end near EQ150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen southeast of Koror to southwest of Chuuk south of a line from 5N137E to 5N147E to 1N152E. Scattered light showers are seen just south of Koror within 100 miles of a line from 8N131E to 5N135E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro south of a line from 3N155E to 2N160E to 2N172 and east of a line from 4N180 to EQ174E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼75
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲79	▼64
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼40
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲67	▼64
Honolulu	Sunny	▲82	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼36
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼66
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼68
New York	Cloudy	▲59	▼49
Osaka	Cloudy	▲57	▼40
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼36
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼40
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼44
Salem	Showers	▲51	▼43
San Francisco	Sunny	▲61	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼34
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼40
Washington, DC	Showers	▲66	▼50

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:30 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
1:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:38 AM	12:24 PM
Thursday	1:32 AM	1:18 PM
Friday	2:24 AM	2:11 PM
Saturday	3:12 AM	3:04 PM
Sunday	3:57 AM	3:54 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

TWO-DAY PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING ON TINIAN

MYSN starts out with lots of laughter, energy, motivation

The arrival of Dr. "Patty" to the pre-conference training of social workers, school counselors, youth workers, and administrators from Saipan, Guam, Rota, Chuuk, and Palau brought immediate laughter that took down the initial "ice" with ease.

Registration for the Micronesian Youth Services Network training exceeded its cap at 25 with 50. This is truly a demonstration of needs to continue with professional development if we want our young people to move forward with developing the CNMI and the region.

The Positive Youth Development for the two-day pre-conference training focused on helping the youth create their own positive future story. The heart of the curriculum is to focus attention and the "spot light" on the youth and help them design their own personal blueprint and help develop the intrinsic motivation for the young mind to make wiser and healthier choices in their behavior, their education, and their choices in friends. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. "Patti" taking the participants into a learning journey during the Micronesian Youth Services Network training on Tinian.

Above, CNMI school counselors do their part in "Designing the Dream."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kenny of Palau and Tricia of WestCare Pacific Guam engage in activities during the training.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Launch of para-veterinarian training in Palau

KOROR, Palau—Eleven livestock extension and biosecurity officers from the Bureau of Agriculture and Koror State Animal shelter who are involved in animal health services, are taking part in a Para Veterinarian (paravet) training that was launched on 14 March. This is being followed by a one week of orientation (March 14-18) at the Penthouse Hotel in Koror, Palau.

The training is being implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with Bureau of Agriculture and the State veterinarian of the Republic of Palau.

Due to its direct link to South East Asia trade markets, Palau is considered a high risk country as far as biosecurity risks in the Pacific is concerned. For this reason, it is important that Palau has trained animal health people on the ground to be able to prevent entry and spread of serious animal diseases that are not present in Palau and other Pacific Island countries.

The introductory Paravet training module is a distance learning programme of 12 Units covered in 16 weeks. The course covers all aspects of animal health, animal production, zoonosis and biosecurity. A summer school would be conducted on the last week of the course when the trainees take part in practical sessions, clinical manipulations and handling of locally available animals including sheep, pigs and cattle, and theory revision.

For competency assessment purposes, the course consists of three assignments and a one week summer school after the end of the 16-week course, during which trainees are assessed for their practical skills by SPC and local vets. Final assessment comprises an oral and a written exam at the end of the week. In-country tutors provide tutorship and mentoring of the trainees throughout programme.

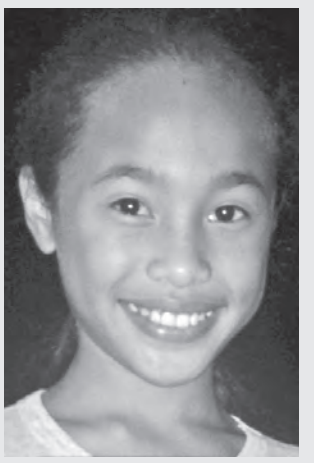
For the sustainability of the programme, SPC is encouraging agricultural training institutes in the region to incorporate the course into their curriculum. So far the Fiji National University and the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) have included these subjects into their curriculum.

Since its inception in 2003, SPC has conducted paravet training in 16 Pacific Island countries. ***(SPC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 17th birthday LeoRay Delacruz Salalila. God bless you always. Love, Daddy, Mommy, Lea, Lenelle & Lilly Sina.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 10th birthday Vancia Jeanette Arriola Diaz. Enjoy your special day!n Love, Arriola and Diaz families.

SMOKING

From Page 11

you're old enough to fight and die for your country, you're old enough to drink. Or smoke. Or vote.

Or drive. Or get married. But most states permit these last two activities at ages considerably younger than 18, which is to say that we've never been able to determine a single one-size-fits-all age of maturity. And for many people, to smoke or not to smoke is a lifelong decision that 18-year-olds — or even 21-year-olds — are not yet mature enough to make.

Recent research indicates that the brain doesn't reach full maturity until around age 25, which is why car insurance companies charge their clients higher rates until they reach that age.

Here's some typical research: Neuroscientist Sandra Aamodt told National Public Radio recently that 18-year-olds are only about halfway through a maturation process that begins at puberty and ends at around age 25. Until that time, the undeveloped prefrontal cortex is unable to plan and organize for the future and to sufficiently control impulses and risk-taking. In short, many under the age of 25 don't have the mental maturity to decide if they want to take on an expensive, dangerous habit that will be extremely difficult to abandon.

By age 25, many have started careers and families. The drive to take risks and to impress their peers has begun to wane at the same time that they begin to notice the first inklings of their own mortality. As they begin to see their lives as spans with beginnings and ends, they're much less likely to begin smoking.

Of course, in practical terms laws against smoking before age 25 may not prevent a 23-year-old from smoking any more than current laws prevent 16- and 17-year-olds.

Still it's important for society to be on the right side of this issue, to take the position that under 25 years of age you're not mature enough to make this often irrevocable decision. And we're not going to legitimize dangerous products by making it legal to sell them to you.

Beyond age 25, well, it's a free country.

Interior approves $1.5M in FY 2016 funds for Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina approved $1.5 million in grant assistance for fiscal year 2016 to the Government of Guam and non-profit organizations from the Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) Technical Assistance Program and the Maintenance Assistance Program.

"This year's funding reflects the priorities and issues of importance to the people of Guam including self-determination, public safety, climate change, natural and cultural resources, and capacity building for non-governmental organizations," said Assistant Secretary Kia'aina. "I am especially pleased with the leadership and collaborative working relationships among Governor Eddie Calvo, Guam Legislature Speaker Judith Won Pat, and Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo on the advancement of a community educational outreach plan in preparation for a 2018 plebiscite on self-determination."

The various Technical Assistance Program grants, including one Maintenance Assistance Program grant awarded for 2016 are as follow:

■ Guam Self-Determination Community Education Outreach Program—$300,000 to the Commission on Decolonization to implement a comprehensive community educational outreach program in preparation for a planned 2018 plebiscite.

■ Climate Change Action Plan Projects—$450,000 for various projects that support multi-sector collaboration and long-term planning developed by the Guam Climate Change Task Force established by Guam Executive Order 2015-08:

* Vulnerability Analysis of Built Environments at Coastal Bays ($190,000)—The University of Guam will produce a comprehensive report of long-term climate change impacts on infrastructure and other assets to educate the community at large, promote responsible policies regarding resilient infrastructure, sustainable land use and economic models.

* Pilot Climate Geographic Information System (GIS) Project ($83,500)—The Guam Office of Technology (OTECH) will develop a visual demonstration of existing conditions and different climate scenarios, within a predefined area, to understand the geography of climate and predict change. OTECH will use this pilot as a template for a Government of Guam GIS system, which would allow the Government of Guam to better understand climate change's effects on the surrounding geography, such as temperature changes, rainfall, stream flow, etc.

*All-Planners Climate Training Workshops ($48,000)—Sustainability planning workshops will be conducted, aiming at educating municipal planners in various sectors, including building professionals, cultural and natural resources entities, insurance and finance.

*Multi-Sector Resiliency Workshops ($48,500)—The University of Guam will conduct workshops in order to provide climate change risk guidance and solutions for smaller community entities, such as village mayors and businesses, in order to build resiliency and strengthen climate change adaptation measures.

*Update & Plan Storm Water Program and Implementation ($80,000)—The Department of Public Works will update both the Storm Water Management Plan and existing Storm Water Manual to account for climate change effects including sea level rise, storm surge, and rainfall and which will aid in planning of mitigating efforts.

■ Boat Ramp Feasibility Study—$260,000 for the Guam Economic Development Authority to conduct a feasibility study that will look at possible boat ramp locations to better provide emergency response on the eastern shore of Guam, to assure the quality of life and enhance public safety throughout the island. Such access would also create economic development opportunities by allowing easier public access that would ultimately benefit Guam's tourism and recreation industry.

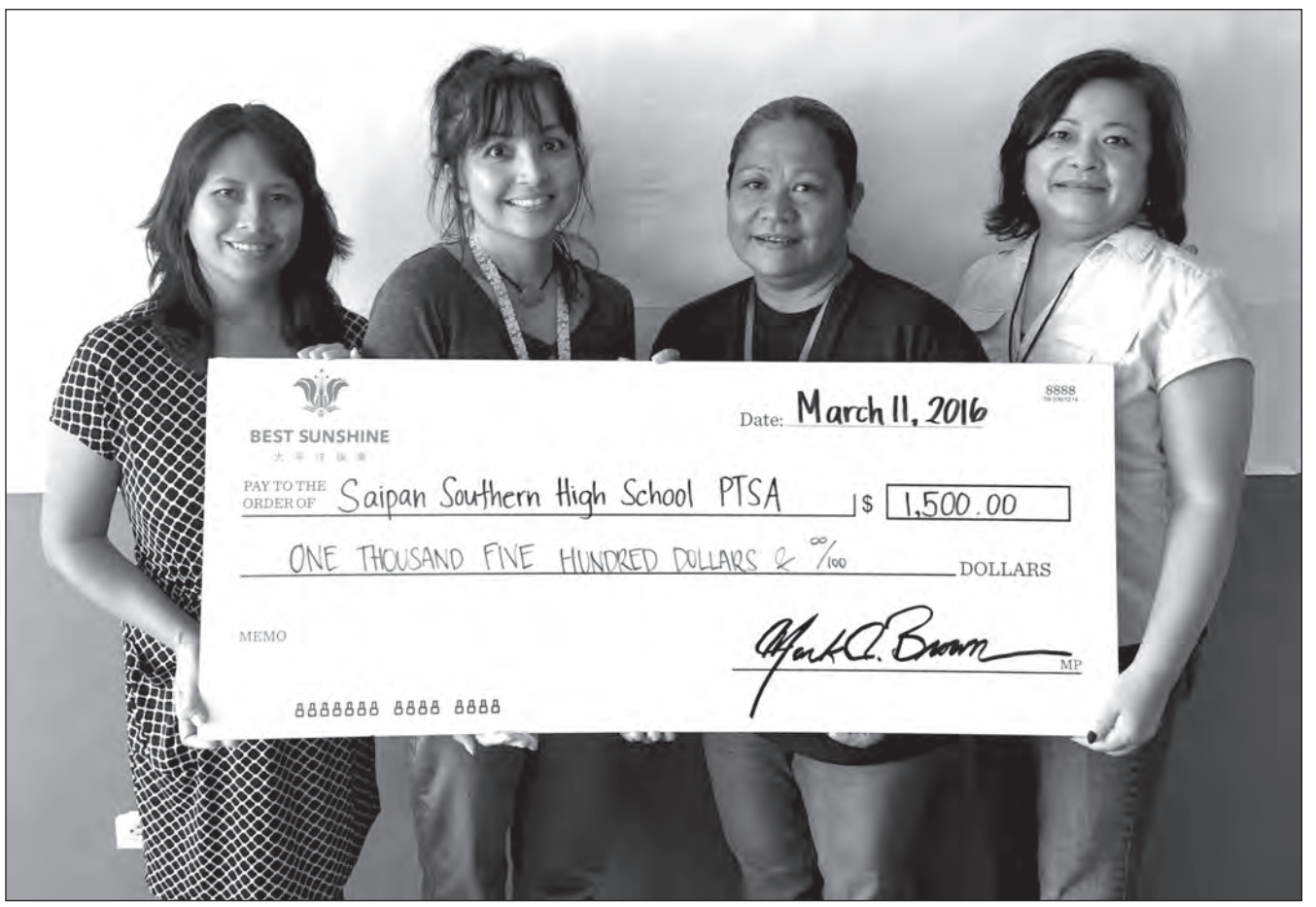
■ Guam Preservation Trust for the Pacific Preservation Project—$ 126,473 to develop and conduct a series of natural and cultural resource preservation trainings throughout the Pacific, to give communities and stakeholders the tools necessary to preserve these resources, historic sites, and cultural heritage from the threatening effects of climate change.

■ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam for the Leadership Collaborative Project—$66,321 for the second year of this successful initiative that focuses on capacity building of nonprofit organizations to better serve the constituents of Guam. With trainings, curriculum and program enhancements and volunteer developments, especially in regards to domestic violence, poverty, and disenfranchisement, the staff and volunteers of these organizations will be better equipped to aid both the indigenous and Micronesian populations on island.

■ Guam Humanities Council "Taking Root-Growing Youth Empowerment for Island Sustainability"—$48,523 to support the development of an outdoor youth initiative that will provide an educational program that focuses on natural and cultural resources, climate change, capacity building, life skills development and cross-cultural exchange through a three-week summer program, a yearlong series of events and activities centered on a youth-led climate change action plan and Guam's first Youth Sustainability Conference.

■ Maintenance Assistance Program awarded to Guam Department of Corrections for an Assessment and Master Plan Project—$250,000 for a comprehensive facilities assessment and plan. Currently operating at 274 percent above its rated capacity, the Department of Corrections will conduct an assessment of its facilities and prepare a master plan to accommodate improvement and future growth.

The Department of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Office of Insular Affairs mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas. ***(PR)***



BSI SUPPORTS PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine International's Corporate Social Responsibility continue to expand its community outreach by supporting parental involvement in public schools' activities. In this photo, BSI-CSR Director Rita Chong, right, led the company in donating $1,500 to Saipan Southern High School's PTSA. The funds will be used for parent, teacher, and student engagement activities. In this photo she is joined by Velma H. Sanchez, SSHS PTSA vice president; Dora Borja Miura, SSHS PTSA secretary; and Mercedes Deleon Guerrero, SSHS associate school leader.According to SSHS PTSA president Glenna Palacios-Reyes, not in photo, "We thank you so much for your support with our PTSA. We value your partnership and we look forward to strengthening this partnership with your company. We invite you to our meetings and events to see firsthand the work that we do in our efforts to increase parental engagements and community involvements in student learning."

Short film highlights public engagement on deepsea minerals potential

SUVA, Fiji—Government and community consultations in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu over managing future opportunities and potential risks associated with the nascent deep sea mining industry are featured in a new film.

The short film, "Breaking the Surface: The Future of Deep Sea Mining in the Pacific", takes a regional focus to highlight the two countries' consultation processes and efforts to explore this emerging industry's potential.

It was commissioned by the European Union in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC) through the regional "Deep Sea Minerals Project".

Papua New Guinea, being the only Pacific nation to issue a deep sea mining license to date, looks likely to be the first country in the world to begin the pioneering of deep sea mining.

This film showcases how its government has been consulting local communities and national stakeholders about its plans to manage the development of this new industry and that it has designated a coastal area of benefit in an effort to recognise coastal communities living nearest to offshore mining activities.

Similarly, Vanuatu has been undertaking detailed consultations with their communities on deep sea minerals management and development and it has just completed a full national consultation process to inform the development of the country's deep sea minerals policy.

The short film, produced by Flinch Marketing Ltd, features interviews with Papua New Guinea's Secretary of the Department of Mineral Policy and Geo-hazards Management, the Chairman of the Central West Coast Seabed Mining Landowner Association, and Vanuatu's previous Minister for Lands and Natural Resources as well as the Executive Director of the National Council of Women.

It is the third in a series of films produced by the Deep Sea Minerals Project, following "Under Pressure" which examined different stakeholders' perspectives involved with deep sea mineral resources in the Pacific, and "Out of Darkness", which focuses on environmental impacts of deep sea mining.

The films are available on the Deep Sea Minerals Project website: http://gsd.spc.int/dsm/index.php/12-videos/93-breaking-the-surface.

While deep sea mining has not commenced anywhere in the world, more than 300 exploration licences for deep sea minerals have already been granted throughout the Pacific. The Deep Sea Minerals Project is working closely with Pacific Island countries in developing national deep sea minerals policies and legislation.

The project has been supporting its 15 participating countries to ensure that the future management of their deep sea minerals resources is built on greater transparency and stronger public accountability, as well as ensuring any mining activity is carried out in accordance with international law, with particular attention to the protection of the marine environment and securing equitable financial arrangements for the benefit of Pacific people. ***(SPC)***

Business

New Jersey voters to decide on new casinos in November

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Voters will be asked in November whether to approve two new casinos in the northern part of the state under a ballot question authorized Monday by the Legislature.

It will mark the first time in 40 years that the state's voters will have a say about expanding casino gambling in New Jersey. And it could have far-reaching consequences for Atlantic City, which has already lost more than half its casino revenue to competitors in neighboring states.

On a packed general election ballot that also will include presidential candidates, voters will be asked whether to amend the state constitution to repeal a provision that limits casinos only to Atlantic City. It would authorize two new casinos in separate counties at least 72 miles from Atlantic City.

It doesn't specify locations, but the two most-talked-about proposals are in the Meadowlands sports complex in East Rutherford, where the NFL's Jets and Giants play, and in Jersey City, just across the Hudson River from Manhattan.

"This is a very historic day for New Jersey," said Assemblyman Ralph Caputo, an Essex County Democrat and former casino worker. "In 1976, casinos were approved for Atlantic City. It was a monopoly that existed for many, many years; many people benefited. But conditions change, and when conditions change and you don't adapt, you become a dinosaur and you become extinct."

Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian, a Republican, predicted that three of his city's eight remaining casinos will close because of new in-state competition; other officials and Wall Street analysts say as many as four could go under because of the new competition.

"Look at my face," Guardian said. "This is the face of failed promises from the state of New Jersey to fix my city. There will be devastation."

Supporters say the new casinos will recapture gambling money that's now going to casinos in neighboring states and help rebuild Atlantic City.

AP

This undated illustration provided by Meadowlands Racetrack and Hard Rock International shows what the proposed Hard Rock Casino Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J., would look like.

Have compassion for ailing boss

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: Our boss has a terminal illness that causes her to have memory issues. "Emily" was not a very good manager in the best of times, but her declining health has the department floundering. Although Emily could retire with a pension, for some reason she wants to keep working.

Most of us have tried to work around Emily's deficiencies, but some people are using this as an excuse to goof off. Key projects have now been put on hold, so it feels like we're just treading water. We would like to get past this management problem and be a productive team again. What should we do?

A: First, instead of harboring resentment towards your ailing boss, you might try to muster up some compassion. Emily undoubtedly has her reasons, both practical and personal, for choosing to remain employed during this difficult time. Since you aren't walking in her shoes, make an effort to be less judgmental.

Viewed another way, this "management problem" is actually a leadership opportunity. When faced with a crisis, a team of mature professionals should be able to pull together, make collaborative decisions and complete critical projects. But if some members are neither mature nor professional, then the natural leaders must try to guide the group.

If your slackers seem unlikely to respond to informal leadership, consider meeting with management and suggesting the appointment of a temporary team lead. This person would not replace Emily, but assist her with specific supervisory tasks. That might not only reduce Emily's burden, but also get those key projects off the back burner.

Q: Shortly after joining this retail company, I was promoted to store manager and transferred to a new location. My assistant manager, "Angela," has been here for seven years and probably believes our positions should be reversed. She often says she hopes to have her own store before long.

Although Angela has terrific skills in customer service and operations, I feel she has one major drawback as a leader. Whenever things go wrong, she reacts defensively and looks for someone to blame. I'm afraid this could limit her promotional opportunities, but I hesitate to mention it because I've only known her a few months. How should I handle this?

A: If you appear to be an advocate, not a critic, Angela may be more receptive, so try relating your feedback to her career objectives. Start by describing how much you appreciate her operational expertise and customer service skills and then explain that you have one area of concern related to her future as a store manager.

For example: "Angela, I would like to make one suggestion that may increase your odds of being promoted. I've noticed that when something goes wrong, you seem worried about being blamed, which makes your responses sound rather defensive. Upper management won't react well to this, so I think it's something we need to work on."

The next time Angela reacts defensively, refer to this discussion and suggest that she try rephrasing her comments. If you remind her that she's practicing for a possible management role, she might actually appreciate your efforts.

US to fire monitor overseeing formerly for-profit colleges

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Education Department is removing a law firm hired to oversee the turnaround of schools owned by Corinthian Colleges Inc., a for-profit education company whose financial collapse had placed at risk more than $1 billion in federal student loans.

An Associated Press investigation identified conflicts with the ostensibly independent monitor.

The department said it was removing the firm, Hogan Marren Babbo & Rose Ltd. of Chicago, after the AP reviewed with senior agency officials its findings last week after a nine-month investigation examining the Obama administration's response to Corinthian's extraordinary collapse in 2014 amid allegations of mismanagement and fraud. The department had previously said only that it intended to review the firm's performance going forward.

The chairman of the firm's education practice, Charles P. Rose, declined Monday to discuss his firm's removal. A spokeswoman for Zenith did not respond to an email and phone call asking how much the company had been paid.

The monitor has been overseeing the business practices of Zenith Education Group, an offshoot of a student-loan debt collection firm that took over Corinthian's operations. It was serving as the U.S. government's close-up eyes and ears, reviewing Zenith's marketing materials and admissions phone calls and the accuracy of graduation and employment statistics.

"I've notified Zenith and Hogan Marren that we do not intend to approve renewal of Hogan Marren as the independent monitor," Education Undersecretary Ted Mitchell told the AP. "We believe we need a monitor with different capacities to serve in this next phase of Zenith's development."

The mess of how to deal with Zenith and its struggling for-profit former peers is among the most serious problems confronting the Education Department and its new leadership. John B. King Jr., who won Senate confirmation late Monday as education secretary, was hired as an adviser in January 2015, after the department had set Zenith's path under then-Secretary Arne Duncan.

House votes to extend FAA operating authority to mid-July

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House voted Monday to extend the Federal Aviation Administration's operating authority through mid-July while Congress works on a longer aviation policy bill.

The bill was approved by voice vote. Senate action is still required. The FAA's current operating authority is due to expire on March 31.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved a bill last month mostly on party lines that would set aviation policy for the next six years. The centerpiece of the bill would wrest air traffic control operations from the FAA and spin them off into a nonprofit corporation controlled by airlines and other aviation system users.

Air traffic control privatization is supported by the committee's chairman, Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Pa., and the airline industry. Shuster has said "transformational" change is needed in order to get the FAA's air traffic modernization plan, which is making slow progress, back on track. But the bill has been sidelined by House leaders in the face of opposition from other powerful GOP lawmakers, who object to ceding some of Congress' authority to a corporation, and by some segments of the aviation industry, who say they fear airlines will have too much influence over the corporation and that business and private aircraft operators will suffer.

A bipartisan Senate bill introduced last month would instead extend the FAA's authority through Oct. 1, 2017 and doesn't address the question of whether to privatize air traffic control. The bill's sponsors, Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, and Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida, the committee's senior Democrat, said they want to make important policy changes while providing time to work out the privatization question.

Nation

2016 race barrels toward potentially decisive primary day

HANOVERTON, Ohio (AP)—The tumultuous presidential primary season barreled toward a potentially decisive day for both Republicans and Democrats, with enough delegates up for grabs Tuesday to turn Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton from front-runners to likely nominees.

The biggest prizes are Florida and Ohio, states with a long history of making or breaking White House aspirations. Missouri, Illinois, and North Carolina also offer a crucial cache of delegates that could help Trump and Clinton pull further away from their rivals.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio hoped the two big states would give them a boost instead. Kasich seemed to have a better chance at that than Rubio.

AP
Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, left, gives a thumbs up as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, right, waves to the crowd as they walk off the stage after a rally at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, N.C., Monday, March 14, 2016.

The contests come at a remarkable moment in the presidential race for Republicans. Animosity toward Trump has risen to the point where he can rarely get through an event without being interrupted by protesters. The front-runner is also under scrutiny for appearing to encourage his supporters to physically confront those protesters, deepening divisions within the Republican Party.

In a lightly veiled jab at Trump, Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin said candidates "need to take responsibility for the environment at their events."

"There is never an excuse for condoning violence, or even a culture that presupposes it," Ryan told WRJN, a radio station in Racine, Wisconsin.

Even with the new controversy, Trump holds a comfortable lead in the GOP delegate count and could put himself well on his way to the nomination if he sweeps Tuesday's contests. During a campaign stop Monday in Tampa, where he appeared alongside former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, Trump was already eying the general election.

"If we win Florida and we win Ohio, we can go and attack Hillary," he said.

Heading into Tuesday, the billionaire businessman is locked in a tight contest in Ohio with Kasich, the state's governor. Seeking a final boost in his home state, Kasich spent Monday campaigning alongside Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee and a fierce critic of Trump.

"This is the guy Ohio has to vote for, and America's counting on you," Romney told the crowd at a Kasich event in North Canton. While Romney has not endorsed Kasich, he's said he'll do whatever is needed to help all of Trump's rivals.

Investigators in Amtrak derailment looking at rail condition

CIMARRON, Kan. (AP)—Investigators looking into the derailment of an Amtrak passenger train in southwest Kansas plan to review rail conditions and other factors as they seek to determine the cause of the accident, a federal transportation official says.

Amtrak's Southwest Chief was carrying more than 140 people when several rail cars derailed early Monday, moments after an engineer noticed a significant bend in a rail and applied the emergency brakes, authorities said. At least 32 people were hurt, two of them critically.

Local authorities said they were checking whether a vehicle crash may have damaged the track before the accident.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

National Transportation Safety Board member Earl Weener said Monday evening at a news conference that investigators would review data from cameras and recorders on the train as well as the condition of the rails and crew performance. He put the train's speed at the normal limit of 60 mph.

Weener said there was some initial indication of a "misalignment" on the rail, but it was unclear what that was or what caused it. He said the engineer was vigilant and noticed the variation on the track, causing him to brake. The track was inspected last week, Weener said.

The train, which had about 130 passengers and 14 crew members, was making a 43-hour journey from Los Angeles to Chicago when it derailed shortly after midnight along a straight stretch of tracks in flat farmland near Cimarron, a small community about 160 miles west of Wichita. Eight cars derailed, and four of them ended up on their sides.

Thirty-two people were taken to hospitals for treatment. Four of them remained hospitalized Monday night, including two people who were airlifted to Amarillo, Texas. The rest had been released.

Water ebbing in north Louisiana, rising at Mississippi line

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—As floodwaters began receding Monday in northwest Louisiana, emergency officials along Louisiana's southeastern border with Mississippi were watching the rise of the Pearl River amid widespread flooding that has damaged thousands of homes.

The water has started to ebb from flooded subdivisions in south Bossier City on the Red River in northern Louisiana.

National Weather Service forecaster C.S. Ross in Shreveport says it will take at least a week before homeowners can get back to their homes and assess the damage. A 6-mile section of U.S. Highway 71 from Bossier Parish into Red River Parish was covered by water

Ross said Red Chute Bayou on the east side of Bossier City did not top the levee as feared. He said there was some seepage, but not enough to reach 3,500 homes.

In Arkansas, a fast-moving weekend storm system brought rain, hail and reports of several tornadoes.

National Weather Service Meteorologist Michael Brown says as many as four possible tornadoes may have touched down amid Sunday evening's severe weather. Weather Service crews will survey the areas Monday.

Meanwhile, the National Weather Service pushed back its timeline of flooding from the Pearl River at the southern end of the Louisiana-Mississippi line.

Meteorologist Robert Ricks said the river crested Monday afternoon at the Town of Pearl River at 20.3 feet but it had dropped to about 19.9 feet by 6 p.m. He said it would be another 24 hours before the river possibly encroaches on Interstate 10 or other highways.

"It remains to be seen if it will go across the interstate or not," Ricks said.

That's short of what forecaster Phil Grigsby earlier predicted the river could reach—21 feet by late Tuesday or early Wednesday—the height of a 1983 flood. But Ricks noted the water was still rising downstream, near the cities of Slidell, Louisiana, and Pearlington, Mississippi, and could crest higher along those points.

Hancock County Emergency Management Agency Director Brian Adam said he's been told to expect 5 to 7 feet of water. Adam said some 100 to 200 homes around Pearlington could take on water.

At least four deaths have been reported in Louisiana

ACROSS THE NATION

Justice Dept.: States shouldn't jail over fine nonpayment

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department is discouraging state court systems from jailing poor defendants who fail to pay fines or fees, warning against practices that it says run afoul of the Constitution and erode community trust. A letter sent Monday by the federal government to state court administrators makes clear that judges should consider alternatives to jail, such as community service, for poor defendants who don't pay their fines. It also says judges must consider whether defendants have the ability to pay, and should not turn to incarceration without first establishing that a missed payment was willful. The memo arose of a December meeting convened by the Obama administration that brought together judges, court administrators, prosecutors and others to discuss improvements in how court fees and fines are assessed. The new guidance comes amid concerns that some local courts across the country are effectively punishing poor people for their poverty by imposing crippling fines and fees that, when unpaid, can result in jail time.

Man charged in Michigan shootings: Uber app took him over

DETROIT (AP)—A man charged with fatally shooting six people in southwestern Michigan interspersed with his stints as an Uber driver told investigators he was being controlled by the ride-hailing app through his cellphone, police said Monday. According to a police report, Jason Dalton told authorities after the Feb. 20 shootings in and around Kalamazoo that "it feels like it is coming from the phone itself" and told of something "like an artificial presence," the report said. Dalton told officers that when you "plug into" the Uber app, "you can actually feel the presence on you." He said the difference between the night of the shootings and others was that an icon on the Uber app that is normally red "had changed to black." He told investigators he "doesn't want to come across as a crazy person," and added he was sad for the people who were killed as well as for his family members, who "are going to have to hear all of this," according to the report.

Corrections regains control of prison dorm after uprising

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Dozens of inmates barricaded themselves inside a dormitory at an Alabama prison for more than four hours Monday until authorities were finally able to regain control in what marked the second violent uprising in the same area of the overcrowded correctional facility in three days. The disturbance began Monday morning when a prisoner stabbed another inmate at the William C. Holman Correctional Facility in Atmore, about 50 miles north of Mobile, said Alabama Department of Corrections spokesman Bob Horton. When corrections officers tried to apprehend the suspect, inmates became violent and barricaded themselves inside the dorm, Horton said in an emailed statement. He said 70 inmates were in the dorm at the time, but it was unclear how many were involved in the uprising, which began at 10 a.m. An emergency response team entered the dorm about 2:45 p.m. Monday and regained control of the area of the prison, he said.

Asia

Htin Kyaw voted president of Myanmar parliament

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's parliament elected Htin Kyaw as Myanmar's new president Tuesday, a watershed moment that ushers the longtime opposition party of Aung San Suu Kyi into government.

The 70-year-old Htin Kyaw, a longtime confidant of Suu Kyi, will take office April 1 to become Myanmar's first democratically elected leader after more than half a century of military rule.

Htin Kyaw's secured 360 votes from among 652 ballots cast in the bicameral parliament, winning a strong majority. The vote count was read aloud and announced by a parliament official.

The military's nominee, Myint Swe, won 213 votes and will become the first vice president. Htin Kyaw's running mate from the National League for Democracy party, Henry Van Tio, won 79 votes and will take the post of second vice president.

AP

Htin Kyaw from the National League for Democracy party stands in a corridor before the start of the presidential election at Myanmar's parliament in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

Suu Kyi led her National League for Democracy party to a sweeping victory in Nov. 8 elections, a reflection of the widespread public support she earned during her decades-long struggle for democracy in Myanmar which was ruled for half a century by a military junta.

The Nobel laureate and longtime political prisoner is the party's unquestionable leader but is blocked from becoming president because of a constitutional clause that excludes anyone with a foreign spouse or children. Suu Kyi's two sons are British, as was her late husband. The clause is widely seen as having been written by the military with Suu Kyi in mind.

N. Korea's Kim warns of impending nuclear and rocket tests

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has warned of impending tests of a nuclear warhead explosion and ballistic missiles capable of carrying atomic warheads, state media reported Tuesday, in an escalation of threats against Seoul and Washington.

Kim issued the order for the tests "in a short time," according to the Korean Central News Agency. The KCNA dispatch did not say if Kim gave specific dates for the tests.

The announcement comes as North Korea said it had mastered a key remaining technology needed to develop a reliable long-range missile capable of striking the U.S. mainland.

It is unclear if the tests would happen soon, given that any tests would likely invite harsher international sanctions after the country was hit by the toughest U.N. Security Council sanctions in two decades in early March for a nuclear test and long-range rocket launch conducted earlier this year.

In the past, North Korea has typically conducted nuclear tests and rocket launches every three to four years.

Kim's threats came as his country furiously reacts to ongoing annual military drills by Seoul and Washington, which Pyongyang views as an invasion rehearsal.

Kim said "a nuclear warhead explosion test and a test-fire of several kinds of ballistic rockets able to carry nuclear warheads will be conducted in a short time to further enhance the reliance of nuclear attack capability," according to KCNA.

He made the comments while guiding a successful simulated test of a re-entry vehicle, which is needed to return a warhead safely back into the Earth's atmosphere from a long-range missile launch.

PH businessman denies links to money laundering scheme

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Filipino businessman, one of six people under investigation for the alleged laundering of $81 million dollars thought to have been stolen from the U.S. account of Bangladesh's central bank, on Friday asked authorities to unfreeze his bank accounts, denying involvement in the scheme.

William S. Go, petitioned the Court of Appeals to reconsider a March 1 freeze order issued at the request of the Anti-Money Laundering Council. He said one account under his name and another under the name of his company, Centurytex Trading, at a branch of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. were bogus and his signature had been forged.

The petition submitted Friday said Go did not open the accounts. It called for an investigation into the situation.

In a signed affidavit to the National Bureau of Investigations, Go said a branch manager at the Rizal Commercial Bank told him the two invalid accounts had been set up to handle a large U.S. dollar remittance allegedly coming from Bangladesh that was converted into Philippine pesos with the approval of the bank's head office.

Go's lawyer, Ramon Esguerra, told reporters that his client was not questioning the freeze on the accounts Go says are bogus, but is challenging its application to his other, legitimate accounts. Esguerra's office released to reporters copies of Go's court petition and affidavit to the NBI.

Rizal Commercial Bank's CEO, Lorenzo Tan, has denied knowledge of the scheme.

"I condemn as malicious and actionable insinuations that the top management of the bank knew of and tolerated alleged money laundering activities in one branch," Tan said in a statement earlier this week. "I will fully cooperate with all ongoing inquiries and believe that I and consequently the bank's management will be fully vindicated."

World

Syria refugees fear long exile after 5 years of war

ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP, Jordan (AP)—The murals of forests, seaside cities and beaches being painted on homes in a desert camp in Jordan are cheery and colorful, meant to boost the morale of the Syrian refugees living here.

But they also reinforce a painful message to the displaced: a return home is a long way off.

As the Syria conflict enters year six this month, residents of Zaatari are grappling with the prospect of open-ended exile.

Memories of Syria are fading, roots in the camp of 80,000 people are growing deeper and resettlement to the West, though a long shot for most, is seen as a more realistic option than going back to Syria.

"I live on hope, but hope is far away," said Rasha Ali, 30, who fled a Damascus suburb four years ago. She now teaches in a camp kindergarten where most of the children were born after the March 2011 outbreak of the conflict, a popular uprising against Syrian President Bashar Assad that escalated into civil war.

Meanwhile, Zaatari's transformation continues from its beginnings in 2012 as a chaotic tent camp into an organized community.

Residents now have proper addresses, with numbers assigned to each pre-fab trailer on streets given names like "hope" or "dignity."

A $17.5 million German-funded solar power plant is to be completed by 2017, replacing a makeshift electricity grid. Work on water and sewage networks moves forward.

Camp director Hovig Etyemezian said the U.N. refugee agency tries to make Zaatari as livable as possible.

"From our perspective, the camp will continue being a temporary settlement until the last day of its existence," he said. "We are really hopeful that the conflict will end and that the refugees will return. For us, it will be a calamity if the conflict continues for another few years."

More than 4.8 million Syrians have fled their homeland, including some 640,000 now living in Jordan.

The fifth anniversary of the Syria conflict comes amid guarded hopes for a political solution after repeated failures. A limited truce has largely held since Feb. 27, and the U.N.-brokered indirect peace talks, which collapsed last month, resumed in Geneva on Monday.

But this month's milestone also caps the "worst year yet" for civilians in Syria, including a rise in attacks on medical facilities and destruction of homes, according to a recent report by 30 aid agencies, including the Norwegian Refugee Council, or NRC, and Britain's Oxfam.

Russia, the United States, Britain and France—all permanent U.N. Security Council members pledged to a political solution—have "added fuel to the fire" to varying degrees, either through inadequate diplomatic pressure on the war's players, political and military support to their allies in Syria or direct military action, the report said.

Al-Qaida focuses attention on soft targets in West Africa

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—The attack on an Ivory Coast beach resort by an al-Qaida affiliate is the latest sign it is shifting its focus to soft targets associated with foreigners in an effort to destabilize economies and gain the group credibility among jihadis in its rivalry with the so-called Islamic State group.

The three gunmen who burst into the Grand-Bassam beach resort and killed 18 people were part of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, a group that grew out of the Algerian civil war in the 1990s and used to restrict itself to operations deep in the desert, hundreds of miles away.

In recent months, however, it has carried out devastating attacks against luxury hotels frequented by foreigners: first in Mali in November, then in Burkina Faso in January, and now even farther south in an Ivorian resort popular with tourists and locals alike.

"They are essentially shifting their strategy from operating in northern Mali and southern Algeria and parts of Libya to much more commercially relevant areas," said Robert Besseling, director of the Exx Africa risk advisory group. "Therefore it undermines the whole region's economy and the business confidence surrounding these economies."

Al-Qaida's North Africa branch was once known for striking military posts in Algeria and neighboring countries, but such attacks were often difficult and made little impact internationally.

The group has now taken its cue from other, more brutal organizations around the world and turned to civilian targets linked to its enemies—principally the French.

"They've realized how easy it is and how much fear you can spread by doing this," said Sean Smith, the Africa analyst at Verisk-Maplecroft Risk Consultancy. "You can spread much more fear by attacking capital cities and tourist complexes than the Malian army."

The shift comes as AQIM is under unprecedented pressure from the French-led Operation Barkhane, a wide ranging campaign in the Sahara that has killed a number of jihadi commanders.

Moscow says Russian planes are getting ready to leave Syria

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's defense ministry says its military at the Russian air base in Syria is preparing for some of the planes and fighter jets to leave and return home.

Tuesday's statement comes a day after President Vladimir Putin ordered the Russian military to withdraw most of its forces from Syria, timing his move to coincide with the resumption of Syria peace talks in Geneva.

The ministry says Russian personnel are currently loading equipment and materiel on cargo planes and getting ready for the withdrawal, which marks an end to Russia's five-and-a-half-month air campaign.

Russian air strikes have allowed Syrian President Bashar Assad's army to win back some key ground and strengthen his positions ahead of the Geneva talks.

The ministry did not indicate when the first planes are scheduled to leave.

Focus

AP
In this Nov. 13, 2010, file photo, Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, center, speaks with aide Htin Kyaw, left, as she addresses her supporters from the front gates of her home after her release from house arrest in Yangon, Myanmar.

Myanmar's expected president is an unlikely leader

NAYPITAW, Myanmar (AP)—For years he walked alongside Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, a quiet confidant as she campaigned for democracy in Myanmar. On Tuesday, with her blessing, Htin Kyaw will become the country's president.

A soft-spoken man with a penchant for literature and writing, Htin Kyaw gave up a career in the foreign ministry decades ago to help Suu Kyi, his childhood friend, with her political party. When Myanmar was under military rule, he ended up in the junta's prison along with other pro-democracy activists.

But until last week, Htin Kyaw was hardly a household name, and most people in Myanmar - or outside - could have never imagined that he would become the president of the country's first democratically elected government in more than a half-century.

Suu Kyi led her National League for Democracy party to a landslide victory in the Nov. 8 general elections, but is prevented from becoming president by a constitutional clause designed by the former military rulers who have been gradually letting go of power since 2011.

So she chose a trusted friend and adviser. She has repeatedly said she expects the president to be her proxy.

Htin Kyaw, 70, is the son of a national poet and the son-in-law of a founding member of the country's pro-democracy movement. He has known Suu Kyi, 71, since grade school. Their fathers were family friends, and Htin Kyaw has been at Suu Kyi's side almost constantly since 1992.

But he kept such a low profile that journalists were left scrambling to find out anything about Htin Kyaw when his nomination was announced last week. After all, he was only the nameless face often appearing behind Suu Kyi in pictures taken during her infrequent public appearances before she was freed from long periods of house arrests.

"Htin Kyaw is a very quiet man who loves literature," said Zaw Min Kyaw, who has known Htin Kyaw for more than 20 years. Zaw Min published a book compiling a series of articles Htin Kyaw wrote about his father, titled "My Father's Life," in 2009.

"He talks steadily and softly. He is such a kind person; very honest, quiet, and passionate, and lives simply," he told The Associated Press.

Under Myanmar's complicated electoral system, the president is elected by lawmakers of both houses of parliament. They chose from three candidates, one representing the lower house, one the upper house and one representing the military bloc, which has 25 percent of seats reserved for them. The candidate with the highest number of votes becomes president and the other two become vice presidents.

As the personal nominee of Suu Kyi, Htin Kyaw is expected to win the highest number of votes in elections set to take place Tuesday.

Suu Kyi nominated him "obviously to show that he is the most trusted person for her," said Zaw Min, 48, a former NLD member. "If this kind of person leads the country ... it will also affect positively on the people of this country."

Htin Kyaw is one of the first generation of graduates from Rangoon University, now the University of Yangon. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1967 and a master's degree in economics in 1968, while also working as a lecturer there. He moved to the computer science department in 1970, and later studied computer science at the University of London for two years before returning home to work as a programmer and analyst until 1975.

Five years later, Zyaw Min said, Htin Kyaw then joined the government's foreign economic relations department, where he worked as deputy director. He resigned in 1992 - apparently because of his family connections to the opposition party - and took greater interest in the work of NLD, which was in the throes of a democracy campaign against a military junta.

At the time, his father-in-law, U Lwin, was sick and Htin Kyaw used to drive him to the party office. In the process he started helping Suu Kyi with issues relating to foreign policy, and became the key adviser on the party's outreach to foreign governments and embassies, even as the junta continued to throttle the democracy movement.

A watershed in his life came in 2000 when NLD workers, including Zaw Min, wanted to go to Mandalay on a campaign trip. They went to the Yangon train station to meet with Suu Kyi, who had been driven there by Htin Kyaw. But officials refused to sell them tickets, and the situation became tense.

Instead of leaving Suu Kyi at the station, Htin Kyaw "waited and waited because he knew the situation was not good," said Zaw Min.

In the end everyone was detained, including Htin Kyaw. Suu Kyi was returned to house arrest, and the other nine activists spent the next 4Ω months in notorious In Sein prison.

Up to that point, and even after his release, Htin Kyaw "didn't really do much active politics as far as I know," said Zaw Min. "It's not like he was taking a big position in the political party, but over the years he ended up helping Suu Kyi a lot in party affairs."

Htin Kyaw is now a senior executive of the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, a charity named for Suu Kyi's mother. He is also a trusted member of the party's inner circle.

"He is a very trusted friend of Daw Suu Kyi," said Zaw Min. They both went to the same elementary school in Yangon. Htin Kyaw is remembered by his acquaintances as a smart student who loved sports. At university, he played water polo.

"After he retired (from his government job), he became very quiet. He started spending a lot of time reading and writing articles," said Zaw Min.

Good Housekeeping

DIGGIN' IN: Violets can be a thing of beauty; ants, not so much

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

If you think ants in the kitchen and violets in the yard are not a good thing, you are right on one.

Ants are unwelcomed parades across a kitchen counter or floor.

Violets, however, are bright spots in the spring yard.

"This bright little plant often grows in lawns that are not mowed too often nor too high," says Helen Hamilton, past president of the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society, and retired biology teacher living in Williamsburg, Va. Learn more about the native plant society at www.vnps.org.

"Virginia Tech lists this violet as 'primarily a weed of turfgrass and landscapes,' but their deep purple-blue color is a welcome sign of spring.

"Violets are host plants for fritillary butterflies. They lay their eggs on the leaves, which are food source for their larvae, the caterpillars."

Common blue violet, or Viola sororia, thrives in most Virginia counties, and is commonly found in the eastern and central United States, according to Hamilton.

The flowers and leaves are on separate stems, and grow no more than eight inches tall. Violets reproduce in three ways. During early spring and fall when there are few insects, barely-seen flowers self-pollinate. When the flowers bloom March-June, insects visit the flowers for nectar, which results in cross-pollination, she continues.

After flowering, the plant's seed capsules eject seeds into the air. Some species of ants feed on a sweet appendage on the seeds, which helps scatter the seeds elsewhere.

In addition, violets reproduce from branching rhizomes that form colonies in natural habitats. The plants also become weedy in lawns, fields and pastures.

Common blue violet likes partial sun or light shade and moist to average conditions. The soil should be a rich silty loam or clay loam with above average amounts of organic matter.

"The flowers and young leaves of violets are edible, and can be added to salads in small amounts, although the taste is bland," says Hamilton.

There are several forms of Viola sororia with differently colored flowers. A variety with whitish petals and violet markings is called Confederate violet. Common blue violet is the state flower of New Jersey, Illinois, Rhode Island and Wisconsin, according to Hamilton.

Antsy ants

The silly saying "ants in your pants" is a fun way to tell someone they can't sit still, and it actually fits the tiny insect's busy lifestyle.

When Hamilton writes about ants, she loves to quote Edward O. Wilson who made a lifetime study of the creatures.

"His 1990 publication The Ants is encyclopedic, a systemic study of ants and their behavior," says Hamilton.

"Ants are everywhere, on all landmasses on Earth, with the exception of a few remote islands. They thrive in most ecosystems and may form almost one-quarter of the whole biomass of terrestrial animals. These are ancient animals, with a long lineage. Dr. Wilson found an ant fossil dating to the Cretaceous period, 92 million years ago. He estimates there are approximately one million ants for every human on Earth."

Found in a wide range of ecological niches, ants rely on different food resources. They feed on plant material, dead or alive, and on animals usually smaller than themselves.

"People are fascinated watching leafcutter ants move in columns across a footpath, carrying fragments many times larger than themselves," Hamilton says.

Ants are good at dispersing seeds on several familiar plants, she adds, including violets, spring beauty, trillium, hellebore, hepatica, bloodroot and other early spring-blooming species. These plants add a small structure, called an eliaosome, to their seeds. The structures contain fats and proteins that ants like, so they carry the seeds back to their nests. After the ants eat the eliaosomes, they discard the seeds on their trash pile, which contains nutrients that promote the growth of new seedlings.

Ants are easily identified by their elbowed antennae and divided body parts with a slender waist.

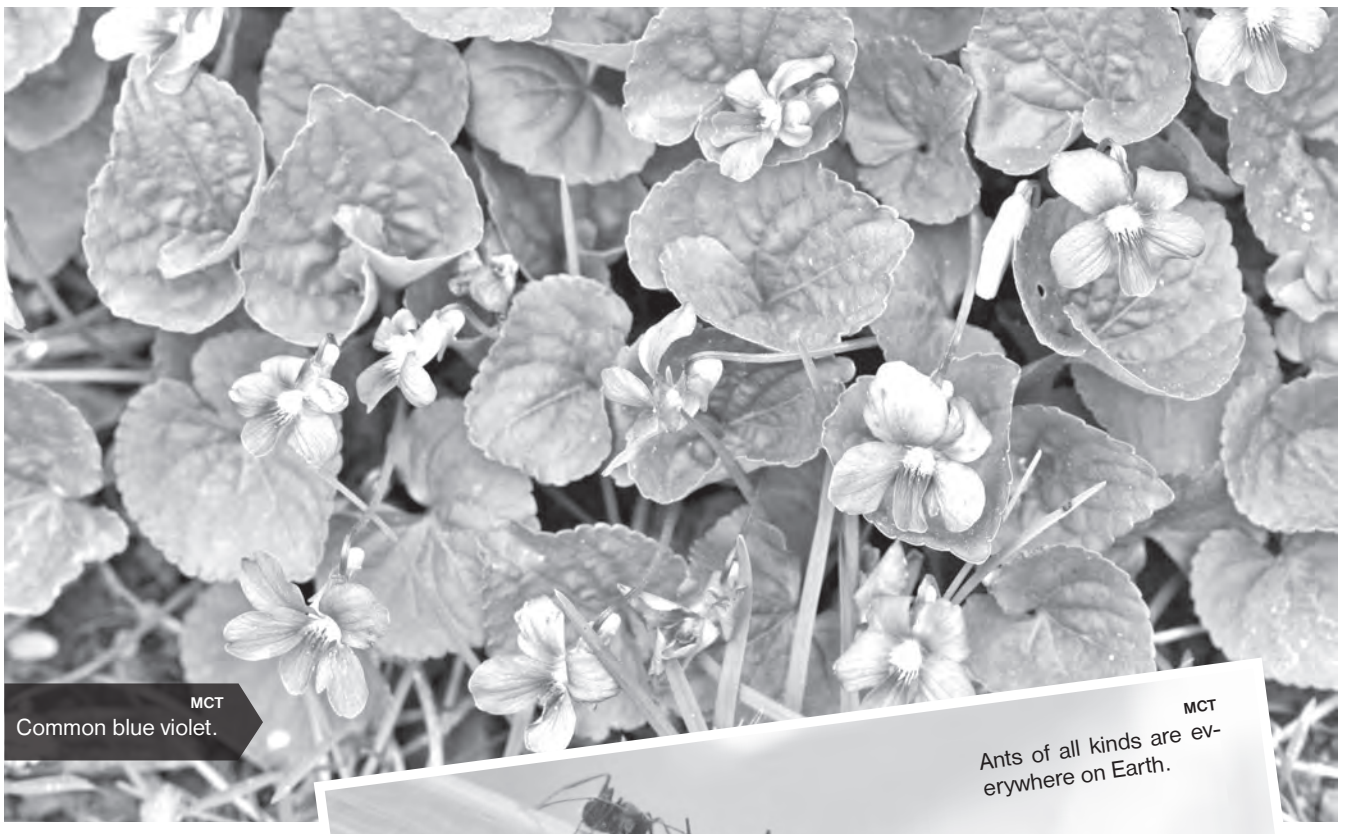
Ant colonies last a long time, with queens that can live up to 30 years, and workers one to three years, according to Hamilton. They are very active in warm weather, and less so in cooler climates.

"Their very successful lifestyle has been a subject of study, since the division of labor, communication between individuals, and the ability to solve problems has parallels with human societies," says Hamilton.

"Ants communicate in many ways—sounds, touches and chemical signals (pheromones), which they gather with long and thin antennae.

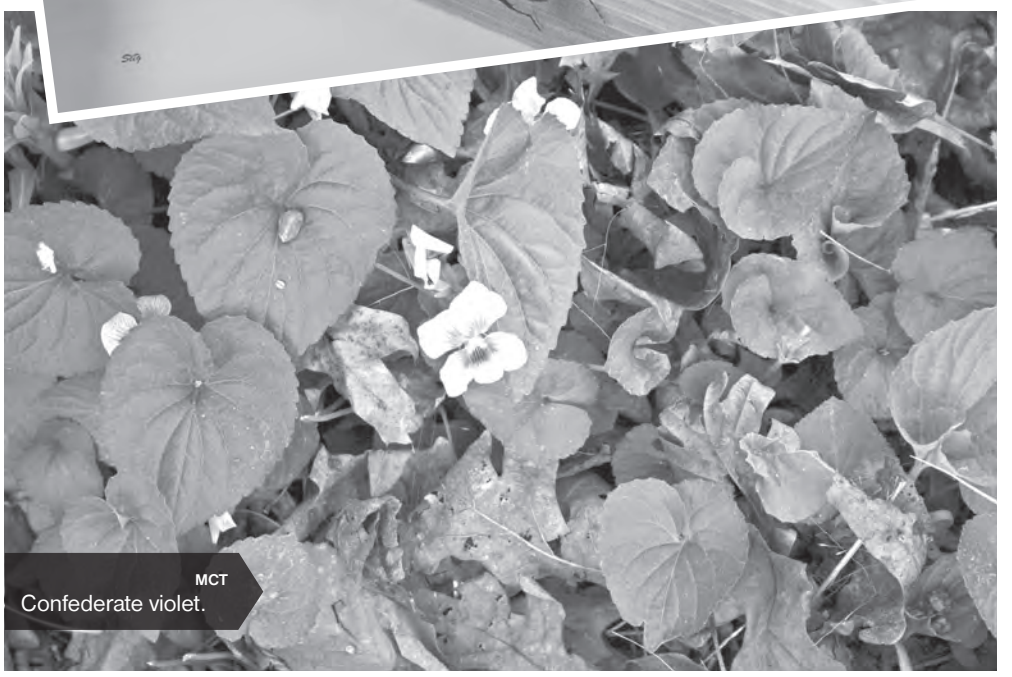
"The word 'ant' comes from old languages. The original meaning was 'the biter,' probably referring to the strong jaws on the head, used to carry food, to construct nests and for self-defense."

Kathy Van Mullekom is the garden/home columnist for the Daily Press in Newport News, Va. Follow her on Facebook@ Kathy Hogan Van Mullekom, on Twitter @diggindirt and at Pinterest@digginin. Her blog can be read at Diggin@ RoomandYard.com



MCT
Common blue violet.

MCT
Ants of all kinds are everywhere on Earth.



MCT
Confederate violet.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING ONE

Irish Stout Skillet Pie

A store-bought crust makes this one-pan beef pie even easier, and the hearty filling is sure to make for a family favorite.

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 pound lean ground beef
4 ounces small shiitake mushrooms
Kosher salt
Pepper
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1/2 cup frozen pearl onions
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
3 tablespoon all-purpose flour
8 ounces stout (we used Guinness)
2 cup frozen butternut squash pieces
1 cup frozen peas
1 refrigerated rolled pie crust
1 large egg

1. Heat oven to 375 F. Heat the oil in a 9-inch cast-iron skillet over medium heat. Add the beef, mushrooms and 3/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper, and cook, breaking up the beef with a spoon, until browned, 4 to 6 minutes. Spoon off and discard any fat.

2. Add the tomato paste and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Stir in the onions and thyme, then sprinkle with the flour and cook, stirring, for 30 seconds.

3. Add the stout and simmer until the liquid has thickened, about 1 minute. Add 1/2 cup water and bring to a simmer. Add the squash and peas, return to a simmer, then remove from heat. (This whole step takes only 2 to 3 minutes total.)

4. Unroll the pastry on a cutting board, brush with the egg, then cut a cross in the center. Lay the dough on top of the beef mixture (egg-side up), gently pressing the edges around the inside of the skillet. Bake until golden brown, 30 to 35 minutes. Let rest for 5 minutes before serving. Makes 4 servings.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipes/.

Life & Style

Las Vegas has loved Elvis Presley true, but less so lately

LAS VEGAS (AP)—For decades, Las Vegas has loved Elvis Presley tender—and loved him true—but the King's presence in modern day Sin City has lately been diminishing, one impersonator at a time.

"Vegas really is, ironically, a challenging market for Elvis," said Jack Soden, CEO of Elvis Presley Enterprises, which runs the Graceland attraction in Memphis, Tennessee, and manages many of the official business deals on behalf of the estate.

The group had loaned hundreds of artifacts to a much-hyped, months-old Elvis attraction at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino. "Graceland Presents Elvis" closed in February after failing to draw in many visitors to the museum exhibit, wedding chapel and theater.

The off-Strip property is now holding the valuables against the will of the estate, as Westgate battles with the attraction's third-party operator over a leasing dispute. The estate has since filed a lawsuit to get those items back.

The fallout at Westgate is not the first Elvis-related spectacle in Las Vegas to leave the building too soon. Low attendance numbers were also to blame when the Viva Elvis Cirque du Soleil show at the Aria casino-hotel was cancelled in 2012 after a two-year run. That's a much shorter shelf life than most of its sister shows. The longest-running one, Myste're, started on the Strip more than two decades ago.

It's left the Strip's largest casino operator, MGM Resorts International, without any Elvis-themed shows, attractions or weddings. Rival Caesars Entertainment Corporation still hosts tribute acts and weddings, but a spokeswoman said few of those getting hitched ever choose the official Elvis packages.

It's a stark turn for a city that has for so long thrived in its association with "The King." The rise of Elvis coincided with the rise of Las Vegas as an entertainment capital, said Cory Cooper, an Elvis historian.

Elvis played here more than anywhere else, selling out hundreds of shows, year after year. Cementing his ties to Sin City were his hits, the "Viva Las Vegas" song that gave the town its anthem, and the movie by the same name that showcased its glitzy persona.

There was a time when Elvis fans across the country made the pilgrimage to Las Vegas to see his concerts, and following his death in 1977, to indulge in the many tribute shows, impersonators and nostalgic memories from his heyday.

It also became a staple of Las Vegas kitsch to see Elvis impersonators—though they prefer to be known as "tribute artists"—on the many tourist-friendly corners of town and at the quickie wedding ceremonies Vegas was known for.

Elvis impersonator Ted Payne, 54 said business has slowed dramatically since he started taking photos with tourists for tips just six years ago.

"When I first started out, I wouldn't get out of a bed unless I (could) make at least $150," he said. "Now, these days, $50 is a great day."

These days, Elvis registers only briefly in the consciousness of Melanie Casas, 22, of Phoenix. On her first trip to Las Vegas recently, she identified him as the singer of "Hound Dog" who was also featured as a character in the "Forrest Gump" movie.

"I know of him but I don't know anything about him," Casas said, shrugging.

AP

In this March 3, 2016, photo, Ted Payne rests as he works for tips dressed as Elvis at the "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign in Las Vegas. For decades, Las Vegas has loved Elvis Presley. But the King's presence in modern day Sin City has lately been diminishing.

Cast of 'Hamilton' gets scrappy with White House performance

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eying the multiethnic troupe of 20-somethings rocking out in the East Room to tales of the American Revolution, President Barack Obama wagered a safe guess: The Founding Fathers never dreamed of this.

The cast of the Broadway sensation "Hamilton" stormed the White House on Monday for a one-of-a-kind performance rich with symbolism and a touch of irony. With portraits of George and Martha Washington staring down, the singers waxed lyrical about Alexander Hamilton's unlikely transformation from impoverished immigrant to American historical luminary

Before the soulful singing started, Obama told an audience of invited schoolchildren he hoped the story of the country's founding would teach them that in America, what's past is only the beginning.

"That's what makes America so great. You finish the story," Obama said. "We're not yet finished. This is a constant work in progress, America. We're boisterous and we're diverse. We're full of energy and perpetually young in spirit. We are the project that never ends."

With its fast-paced score that mixes pop ballads, hip-hop and R&B, "Hamilton" has hit a nerve on Broadway with the true story of the nation's "young, scrappy and hungry" first Treasury secretary. Obama and the first lady have been major boosters of the show, in which an African-American and Latino cast play historical figures who were, of course, white.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, the show's creator and star, has forged an unusual alliance with the Obamas, who first hosted him at the White House in 2009 for a poetry-and-music event where Miranda performed what would later become the show's opening number. Obama joked that he deserved a bit of credit for the theatrical sensation, now one of the hottest tickets on Broadway.

AP

As President Barack Obama applauds in the foreground at right, actor Lin-Manuel Miranda, right, gestures to the rest of the cast after singing "Alexander Hamilton" from the Broadway play "Hamilton" in the East Room of the White House, in Washington, Monday, March 14, 2016

Sarah Palin's husband fractures ribs in snowmobile crash

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Sarah Palin's husband suffered eight fractured ribs and other injuries in a snowmobile accident in Alaska, but he was expected to recover, his father said Monday.

Details about Todd Palin's injuries emerged the same day the 2008 vice presidential candidate made a surprise appearance at a Donald Trump rally in Florida after his campaign had said that she was returning home to be with her husband.

Todd Palin also received injuries to his collarbone and lungs in the Sunday night crash, father Jim Palin told The Associated Press. He said he did not know the extent of those injuries and has not yet spoken with his son.

He called the crash "one of those freak accidents" and said it happened about 70 miles north of the Palins' hometown of Wasilla. Todd Palin was set for surgery Monday and was expected to make a full recovery, Jim Palin said.

"He's a tough adult," he said.

In a Facebook posting, Sarah Palin called her husband the "toughest guy" she knows, adding that she was flying home to Alaska. Palin did not discuss details of her husband's accident but thanked supporters for their prayers.

Palin, a former Alaska governor, showed up at a Trump rally in Tampa Bay after his campaign announced she was heading home.

"Thank you, guys, for your prayers for my husband who is recovering right now in the ICU after a little wreck on a snowmachine," she said, referring to what Alaskans commonly call snowmobiles.

Palin introduced Chris Christie, one of a handful of speakers at the rally.

"When real life happens," she later said, "it really puts things in perspective doesn't it?"

Trump's presidential campaign said in a statement that the GOP front-runner sends his thoughts and prayers to Palin and her family.

Sony buys Michael Jackson's stake in music catalog for $750M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's estate has agreed to sell its remaining stake in a lucrative music catalog to Sony Corp. for $750 million, the entities announced Monday.

The agreement for Jackson's half-share of the Sony/ATV Music Publishing catalog will give the company sole ownership of works by The Beatles, Bob Dylan and other hit making musicians, including Eminem and Taylor Swift.

The deal is another posthumous blockbuster deal for Jackson, whose estate has erased the singer's massive debts through a mixture of new music and movie ventures and re-releases of the singer's most popular music. Jackson's estate benefits his mother and three children, known as Prince, Paris and Blanket.

AP

In this March 5, 2009 file photo, US singer Michael Jackson announces that he is set to play ten live concerts at the London O2 Arena in July, which he announced at a press conference at the London O2 Arena.

"This agreement further demonstrates Sony's commitment to the entertainment businesses and our firm belief that these businesses will continue to contribute to our success for years to come," Sony Corp. president and CEO Kazuo Hirai wrote in a statement.

The sale does not include rights to Jackson's master recordings or songs that he wrote, and the singer's estate will continue to have a stake in EMI Publishing, Inc.

"This transaction further allows us to continue our efforts of maximizing the value of Michael's Estate for the benefit of his children," the co-executors of Jackson's estate, attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain, wrote in a statement. "It also further validates Michael's foresight and genius in investing in music publishing."

Jackson purchased the ATV portion of the catalog in 1985 for $41.5 million, and he later merged it with Sony. It remained his most lucrative asset at the time of his death in June 2009 at age 50, though by that point Jackson was hundreds of millions of dollars in debt.

The deal for Jackson's half of the Sony/ATV catalog is expected to close by the end of March.

Hogan trial enters 2nd week with more salacious testimony

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—As testimony in the Hulk Hogan sex video trial entered its second week, the case with serious legal implications was once again centered on salacious details.

An editor who worked on a disputed post on the Gawker gossip website was asked by a juror if she'd had sex with her bosses, and another editor described an editorial discussion about whether a video posted on the Internet should show Hogan's penis.

Hogan, whose given name is Terry Bollea, is suing Gawker Media for $100 million for posting an edited video showing him having sex with his then-best friend's wife. The former wrestler has said he didn't know he was being filmed when the video was made. He contends Gawker violated his privacy.

AP

Hulk Hogan, whose given name is Terry Bollea, waits in the courtroom during a break Wednesday, March 9. 2016, in his trial against Gawker Media in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Jurors will likely be asked to consider how celebrity affects privacy expectations.

The civil case is being held in a St. Petersburg courtroom.

Gawker's lawyers called A.J. Daulerio to the stand. He's the reporter and editor who posted the edited version of the sex video on Gawker and wrote an item about it for the website.

Under cross-examination, Daulerio said he told other Gawker staffers that Hogan's penis should be shown in the video. He added that Hogan's penis in and of itself wasn't newsworthy—but the broader themes of celebrities and sex were.

"Sometimes you can come across as callous," Daulerio said. "But that's my job as a journalist. It's to put something out there that's fair and accurate . Public figures live a different life."

Gawker's editorial process has been an issue in the trial.

In the afternoon, a female journalist who once worked at the Gawker gossip website testified about editing Daulerio's story on the sex tape, but when she finished a juror wanted to know one thing: Did she have "an intimate relationship" with her two male bosses at Gawker Media?

Rihanna to be honored at BET's 'Black Girls Rock!' event

NEW YORK (AP)—Rihanna will be honored at BET's "Black Girls Rock!" awards.

The singer will receive the Rock Star Award at the annual event honoring black women, BET announced Monday.

"Black Girls Rock!" will tape April 1 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, New Jersey. The show will air April 5 on BET.

Other honorees include writer-producer Shonda Rhimes, R&B icon Gladys Knight, "Walking Dead" star and playwright Danai Gurira and actress Amandla Stenberg.

Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi, founders of the Black Lives Matter movement, will also be honored.

Tracee Ellis Ross, star of ABC's "black-ish," will host the event.

AP

In this Feb. 12, 2016, file photo, Rihanna attends the JFENTY PUMA by Rihanna fashion show in New York. Rihanna will receive the Rock Star Award at the annual event honoring black women, BET announced Monday, March 14.

Booklet full of 'keepers' is sure to give pleasure

DEAR ABBY: I have lost my copy of the "Letter From Your Pet," the essay that is written from the pet's viewpoint to his master, assuring him it is the right thing to do when it is time to put the pet down. Is it included in your "Keepers" booklet? If so, how can I order a copy?

RUTH IN THE VILLAGES, FLA.

DEAR RUTH: "A Dog's Prayer" by Beth Norman Harris is one of the most requested items that have ever appeared in my column. It addresses not only the pet's end of life, but also how to respectfully treat the animal during its days on earth.

My "Keepers" booklet includes "A Dog's Prayer," as well as amusing and thought-provoking poems and essays on a variety of subjects, ranging from children and parenting, to human nature, houseguests and more. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 in U.S. funds, to: Dear Abby Keepers, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Many people have told me that "Keepers" makes a welcome gift for newlyweds, new parents, animal lovers, or anyone who is recovering from an illness. Filled with humor and wisdom, it's an inspiring, positive, quick and easy read for anyone who could use a lift.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend has worn panties since he was 12. We are both 20 and have been together for a year. I know it's odd, but I've always thought it was cute and, admittedly, sexy. We will graduate from college next year and are thinking about our futures.

I've been doing some reading and am concerned that he may have some repressed tendencies. He says he does not, and gets quiet and stubborn and won't discuss it. He always dresses as a female character for Halloween, wearing my undies. This year he went as Lady Gaga.

Are these good-enough reasons to be worried? And if so, what should I do?

TESTED IN TAMPA

DEAR TESTED: Whether or not you should worry depends upon what you are worried about. I am more concerned that your boyfriend is unwilling to discuss this than what he's wearing under his Levis.

If you're afraid he may not be 100 percent heterosexual, you should know that some straight men wear ladies' panties because they like the way they feel. Also, some men who enjoy cross-dressing have successful marriages to women who aren't threatened by it and who help them do it.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I would like to suggest that some wives be a little less traditional and inhibited. Lighten up! Be just a little bit more adventurous, open-minded and forward -- nothing excessive, mind you. Variety, after all, is the spice of life. What husband wouldn't enjoy an exceptionally nice surprise every once in awhile?

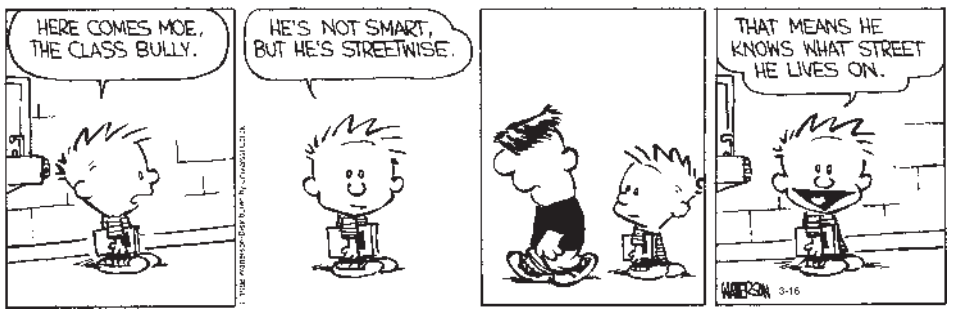
WISHFUL THINKING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WISHFUL THINKING: Inhibitions can be hard to overcome. However, if YOUR wife is among those you are suggesting loosen up (etc.), you should definitely mention it to her and include your "wish list." But don't be shocked if she gives you one, too.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

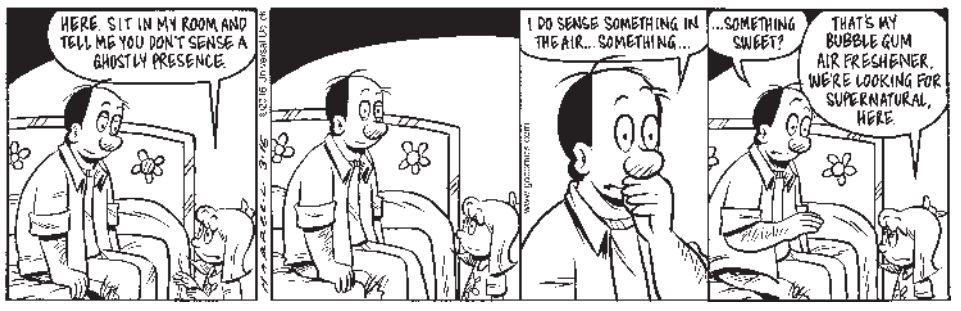


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

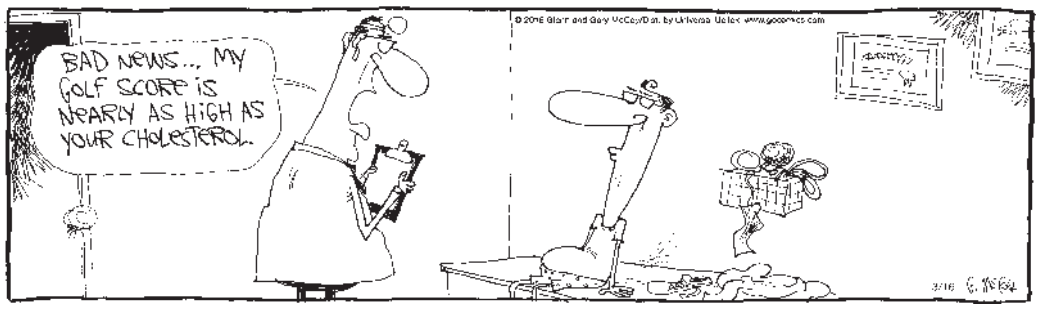
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HERE, SIT IN MY ROOM AND TELL ME YOU DON'T SENSE A GHOSTLY PRESENCE.
I DO SENSE SOMETHING IN THE AIR... SOMETHING...
...SOMETHING SWEET?
THAT'S MY BUBBLE GUM AIR FRESHENER. WE'RE LOOKING FOR SUPERNATURAL, HERE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Toodle-oo!"
5 Whatever number
8 Eden evictee
12 Algerian port
13 "Gosh!"
14 Asta's mistress
15 Withdraw
17 Verdon or Stefani
18 Deadly virus
19 Steam baths
21 Ancient Dead Sea land
24 Away from NNE
25 Salamander
28 TV host Kelly
30 Sort
33 Swiss canton
34 Rx, for short
35 Opposite of paleo-
36 Prohibit
37 Diner sign
38 Citrus drinks
39 Narc's org.
41 It grows on you
43 Jungle trek
46 Island porch
50 Culture medium
51 Plan B
54 Void partner
55 Ga. neighbor
56 Low-calorie
57 Actress Tyne
58 Candied veggie
59 "Born Free" lioness

DOWN
1 Fit — tied (irate)
2 Saudi, e.g.
3 Mexican entree
4 Short sock
5 Past
6 Just out
7 Desires
8 Cattle breed
9 In the direction of the breeze
10 Bailiwick
11 Supplies with staff
16 June honoree
20 Now, on a memo
22 Killer whale
23 Wharton's "House of —"
25 Central point
26 Mound stat
27 Unexpected gain
29 Tower city
31 Director Spike
32 Decks in the ring
34 Blacken
38 Fit for farming
40 Primitive
42 Unwell
43 Hourglass fill
44 Water, to Juan
45 Dubious
47 Hammer target
48 Performs
49 Furniture brand
52 — carte
53 Felon's flight

Solution time: 24 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 3-16

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15				16				■	17			
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36			■	37				■	38			
■	■	39	40		■	41		42		■	■	■
43	44				45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50				■	51	52	53					
54					55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Judah Friedlander, 47; Lauren Graham, 49; Victor Garber, 67; Jerry Lewis, 90.

Happy Birthday: You'll have to look at every situation you face from many different angles. Consequences should be examined, and a well-thought-out plan should be put in place before you jump into action. Slow, methodical maneuvers will help you move in a direction that will help you secure the things that means the most to you. Your numbers are 7, 12, 19, 24, 31, 38, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Acting in haste will lead to unforeseen problems. Bide your time and plan your strategy before you set foot in the ring. It's important to be prepared instead of caught off guard. Do your best and you'll have no regrets. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Move forward with poise and confidence. Look for a different way to handle an ongoing conflict, and you will make headway. Greater opportunities for personal and professional gains will be apparent. Love is in the stars and will bring you peace and happiness. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick to one task at a time and don't move on until you finish what you start. You will be criticized if you are too permissive or extravagant. Use your skills to make a positive difference in the world. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Express your likes and dislikes and you will get results. Your ability to clearly explain situations and circumstances to others will boost your reputation and put you in a good position when you need a favor in return. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get moving. Discipline and hard work should be your priority and completion your goal. You can bring about positive changes and make a difference if you are proactive. Making a promise will strengthen your commitment and dedication. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look at what you have done and what you want to achieve, and you will find a way to reach your goals. Expressing your feelings will help alleviate any tension that is building up and put uncertainty to rest. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't bend under pressure. A change doesn't have to be bad. Put a positive spin on whatever is unfolding around you, and you will overcome any pitfalls that stand in your way. Make a positive move and put your own needs first. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Expansion, expression and excitement will fill your day if you are open to new ideas, concepts and possibilities. Spending time with someone who offers love, guidance and is willing to share in your fight will bring you closer together. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't share personal information or get involved in secretive groups or plans that could put you in a precarious position. Stick to a simple and straightforward lifestyle and look out for poor influences and indulgent pastimes. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take charge and make a change that will ease your stress. Spend more time with the people you love, and do the things that bring you joy. A change of attitude will push you in the right direction. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): An open and honest look at who you are, what you've accomplished and where you are heading will help you put things in perspective and guide you toward an important decision regarding your future. Follow your heart. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Do something nice for someone and you will get something nice in return. Show empathy and understanding, and offer guidance and positive affirmation that things can change if the right steps are taken. You can make a difference. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9	2	7	5			
			6			3		
4		8					2	
9	7				2			3
	3						8	
5	8	4						6
8	5		7				6	
1				2	6	9		
			3	5				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	8	3	2	7	4	5	1	9
7	1	2	5	8	9	6	3	4
9	5	4	6	1	3	2	7	8
4	3	9	1	5	7	8	2	6
8	2	5	3	4	6	7	9	1
1	7	6	8	9	2	4	5	3
3	6	1	7	2	8	9	4	5
2	9	8	4	3	5	1	6	7
5	4	7	9	6	1	3	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IT'S DISPOSABLE Solution: 5 letters

E	C	C	C	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	E	R	Y	E
N	N	I	A	E	E	Ⓢ	E	G	N	O	P	S	N	S
E	E	V	M	R	L	V	Ⓟ	A	D	S	N	I	K	E
L	L	W	I	R	D	L	O	Ⓤ	P	A	Z	R	I	L
Y	S	B	S	R	E	B	P	L	Ⓒ	A	O	X	T	D
H	T	E	A	P	O	D	O	H	G	C	I	E	S	E
T	R	T	U	S	A	N	O	A	O	D	A	T	U	E
E	A	S	P	S	O	P	M	P	R	N	E	A	D	N
Y	C	A	R	L	S	P	E	E	Y	D	E	L	I	U
L	K	W	Y	T	L	I	M	R	N	H	S	S	A	R
O	N	N	I	A	N	T	T	O	E	T	A	T	P	S
P	I	C	S	C	H	T	O	L	C	Y	A	I	E	I
V	K	T	O	R	A	Z	O	R	S	E	U	L	R	N
S	I	M	O	E	R	A	W	H	S	I	D	B	S	G
C	E	W	A	X	P	A	P	E	R	E	F	U	S	E

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Buyer, Cans, Cardboard, Cellphones, Chopsticks, Cloth, Corks, Cups, Decomposable, Diapers, Dishware, Dixie, Dust, Environmental, Gloves, Hair, Hypodermic, Income, Ink Cart, Latex, Magazine, Needles, Nets, Newspaper, Nursing, Pads, Plastic, Polyethylene, Razors, Refuse, Sponges, Stationery, Throw, Tissues, Vinyl, Waste, Wax Paper

Yesterday's Answer: Cocoa

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

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All Around Auto Mechanic

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- Salary will commensurate for applicant's knowledge and experience

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Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, March 23, 2016.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
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Job Requirements: Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and/or Information Technology. With excellent English and Chinese communication skills both oral and written. Must possess experience in MS Office suite. One-year related experience in administrative functions an advantage. Service-oriented, with strong organizational skills, active listening and active learning required. Must be open to a variety of responsibilities, changing assignments, and be an overall team player.

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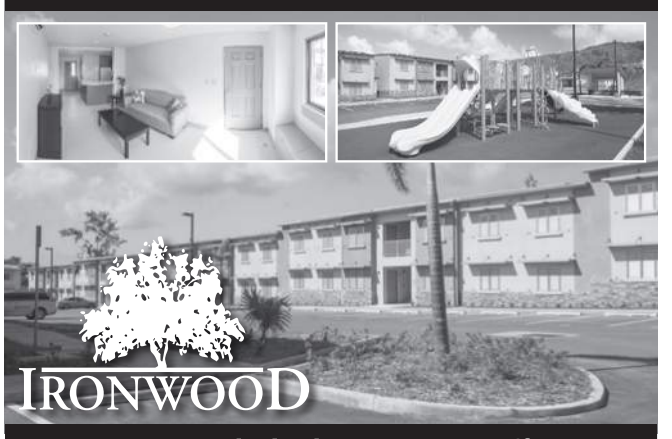

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Suns nip Wolves on Teletovic's last-minute trey

PHOENIX (AP)—Mirza Teletovic made a 3-pointer with 1.2 seconds left to lift the Phoenix Suns to a 107-104 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Monday night.

P.J. Tucker scored a career-high 23 points and Teletovic had 21 for the Suns, who won at home for the first time since Feb. 27 and just the second in almost two months. The Timberwolves (21-46) lost for the third time in the past four.

Tucker added 12 rebounds and Teletovic had 11 points in the fourth quarter. Devin Booker finished with 16 points and Tyson Chandler had 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Suns.

Zach LaVine led the Wolves with 28 points and Andrew Wiggins had 22. Karl-Anthony Towns finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Ricky Rubio had 13 points and 17 assists.

Booker scored and was fouled by LaVine with 9.2 seconds left, his free throw giving the Suns a 104-102 lead. Wiggins responded with a driving layup with 4.6 seconds left to tie it.

The Suns got the ball, and Teletovic took the inbounds pass from Tucker, dribbled and sank the winning shot. Shabazz Muhammad missed at the buzzer for Minnesota.

Tucker hit back-to-back 3s early in the fourth quarter to give the Suns an 84-78 lead. Before that, the Suns hadn't led since midway through the second quarter.

The Wolves rallied to tie at 89, and the game went back and forth with Minnesota tying it again at 94 on LaVine's 3 with 1:48 remaining.

LaVine scored 12 points in the first quarter, and Minnesota made 12 of its first 18 shots in the second. The Wolves went on an 8-0 run to take the lead and surged ahead 49-41 when Wiggins dunked in transition off a steal with 2:58 to go until halftime.

When Rubio looked off defenders on a sideline inbounds play and lobbed to Wiggins for a jam that came right before the halftime buzzer, the Wolves had their biggest lead of the game at 57-47. Rubio had 12 assists at the half.

The Suns rallied in the third quarter and tied it at 70 on free throws by Alex Len with 2:47 to go. Minnesota scored the next five points and led 78-76 at the start of the fourth quarter.

AP
Phoenix Suns' Mirza Teletovic (35), of Bosnia & Herzegovina, shoots the game-winning 3-pointer over Minnesota Timberwolves' Karl-Anthony Towns during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 14, 2016, in Phoenix. The Suns won, 107-104.

Warriors 125, Pelicans 107

In Oakland, Stephen Curry had 27 points, five rebounds and five assists on his 28th birthday, and the Golden State Warriors beat the New Orleans Pelicans 125-107 on Monday night for their record 49th straight regular-season home victory.

Draymond Green added 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors (60-6), who are 31-0 at Oracle Arena this season. With 16 games to go, they remain one game ahead of the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls' pace in their record 72-win season.

Birthday songs, MVP chants, and a serenade and piece of cake from his toddler daughter, Riley, made it a great day for Curry -- all after his fifth Western Conference Player of the Week award this season and second in two weeks.

He shot 4 for 9 from 3-point range and 10 of 16 overall.

Jazz 94, Cavaliers 85

In Salt Lake City, Rodney Hood scored 28 points and the Utah Jazz, playing without leading scorer Gordon Hayward, beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 94-85 on Monday night.

The Jazz remained two games behind the Houston Rockets and Dallas Mavericks for the last Western Conference playoff spot, while the Cavaliers stayed 2 1/2 games ahead of Toronto in the East.

The Jazz led most of the game, but went into the fourth quarter tied at 66. Utah went on a 16-2 run midway through the period, led by 10 points from Trey Lyles, to take an 86-73 lead.

The Cavs never recovered.

Thunder 128, Trail Blazers 94

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook had 17 points, 16 assists and 10 rebounds in his 12th triple-double of the season, and Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Portland Trail Blazers 128-94 on Monday night

Westbrook had the 31st triple-double of his career and matched Sacramento's Rajon Rondo for the most assists without a turnover in a game this season.

Enes Kanter scored a season-high 26 points, Kevin Durant added 20 and Serge Ibaka had 15 for the Thunder, whose 45th win matched their victory total from last season. Oklahoma City shot a season-high 59 percent from the field.

Mavericks 107, Hornets 96

In Charlotte, Chandler Parsons had 24 points and nine rebounds, and Dallas snapped Charlotte's season-high, seven-game winning streak.

Dirk Nowitzki added 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Mavericks, who moved back above .500 after losing five straight games. Deron Williams chipped in with 15 points.

Kemba Walker had 25 points and nine assists, Nicolas Batum scored 20 points and Marvin Williams added 19 for the Hornets.

Dallas, which was just 3 of 20 from 3-point range in the first three quarters, hit 6 of 10 3s in the fourth quarter.

Bulls 109, Raptors 107

In Toronto, reserve Doug McDermott scored 29 points to lead Chicago to its ninth straight victory over Toronto.

E'Twaun Moore and Nikola Mirotic added 17 points apiece as Chicago swept Toronto in the series for the second straight season, handing the Raptors just their second loss in their last 16 games at home. Toronto's last win against Chicago was on Dec. 31, 2013.

Jimmy Butler scored 13 points on 5-of-18 shooting after missing three games because of knee soreness.

Rockets 130, Grizzlies 81

In Houston, Donatas Motiejunas scored 18 points, Trevor Ariza had 16 and Houston coasted to its most lopsided win of the season.

The Rockets, who never trailed, were up by 24 at halftime and used a 32-point third quarter to extend the lead to 97-54. Houston cleared the bench to start the fourth quarter with the game well in hand.

The largest margin of victory in franchise history is 52 points and the Rockets almost tied it on Monday, but JaMychal Green made a 3-pointer with 5.2 seconds left to cut the lead to 49.

Heat 124, Nuggets 119

In Miami, Justise Winslow scored 20 points, fellow rookie Josh Richardson added 17 and Miami held off Denver.

Dwyane Wade scored 19 points and Joe Johnson added 18 for the Heat. Hassan Whiteside finished with another double-double off the bench, scoring 12 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter and adding 10 rebounds.

Kenneth Faried matched the best single-game shooting effort in the NBA this season, going 11 for 11 and finishing with 24 points and 11 rebounds. Emmanuel Mudiay had 23 points and 10 assists for Denver, which had its four-game winning streak snapped.

Wizards 124, Pistons 81

In Washington, John Wall had 15 points and 12 assists, and Washington routed Detroit to snap a five-game skid and gain ground in the playoff race.

Nene scored a season-high 20 points off the bench to lead seven Wizards players in double figures during Washington's biggest win and Detroit's worst loss of the season.

Bradley Beal added 12 points in his return after missing three games with a sprained pelvis, helping the 10th-place Wizards close within 2 1/2 games of a playoff spot.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 18 points for the Pistons, who fell to 0-3 against the Wizards and have allowed 110 or more points in three straight games.

SIDEBAR

Possible No. 1 pick Simmons to hire LeBron James' agent

LOUISIANA (AP)—Louisina State University freshman star Ben Simmons, a possible No. 1 overall NBA draft pick, plans to sign with the LeBron James-funded Klutch Sports agency for his pro representation, league sources said.

Rich Paul of Klutch Sports will serve as Simmons' agent.

Simmons' college career ended when LSU decided against accepting an NIT bid on Sunday.

Simmons' older sister, Emily Bush, has been a marketing/branding employee of Klutch since 2014. She is based in Scottsdale, Ariz. Her hiring came shortly after James and Paul started recruiting Simmons as a potential future client.

Within the basketball industry, it has been understood that Klutch has been the only real pro representation that Simmons has considered. Simmons, a native of Australia, has been the subject of a serious courtship by James, Paul and Klutch Sports since attending the LeBron James Skills Academy in 2014.

The arrangement for Klutch to represent Simmons has been in place for over a year, and agency papers to formalize the partnership are expected to be signed soon, sources said. Simmons will train in either Cleveland or Los Angeles in the predraft process, league sources said.

Simmons has openly discussed James' involvement in his life. "I just get a lot of advice from him. He's like a big brother to me."

Simmons and Duke's Brandon Ingram are considered the two most likely candidates to go No. 1 overall in the June NBA draft. LSU failed to make the NCAA tournament and withdrew from consideration to participate in the NIT on Sunday.

Simmons, a 6-foot-10 forward, averaged 19.2 points and 11.8 rebounds in a season full of criticism for his sometimes indifferent play.

Sanchez vows to start for Broncos

AP
Denver Broncos quarterback Mark Sanchez responds to questions during a news conference early Monday, March 14, 2016, at the team's headquarters in Englewood, Colo. The Broncos acquired Sanchez in a trade from the Philadelphia Eagles last week.

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Mark Sanchez is thankful for a fresh start in Denver—emphasis on start.

Sanchez said Monday that general manager John Elway told him to come in and compete for the No. 1 job with the Broncos, "and what a reinvigorating feeling this is."

"This isn't an opportunity I'm going to squander," the 29-year-old veteran said Monday during his introductory news conference at the team's suburban headquarters.

The Broncos acquired Sanchez from the Philadelphia Eagles last week for a conditional 2017 draft pick after the Super Bowl champions lost Peyton Manning to retirement and Brock Osweiler to free agency.

Sanchez, due $4.5 million in the final year of his contract in 2016, said the trade caught him off-guard, but as it sunk in, he quickly realized how fortunate he was.

Sanchez said he's the perfect player to follow Manning after replacing another QB icon, Brett Favre, in New York his rookie season. What he learned from that experience, he said, was that playing in the shadows of a superstar doesn't have to be suffocating.

"You don't try to be Peyton Manning," Sanchez said. "Obviously we'll let No. 18 sit on the shelf there for a while. We'll let somebody else take that number. That's just rarified air. I'm so impressed with what he's done and would love to learn as much as I can from him and the guys who have been with him. But you know you've got to be yourself and work as hard as you can, be the best version of yourself and give everything I've got to the team."

And he's eager to make his own, well, mark.

"I wasn't a part of anything last year, so I'm not hanging on any coattails that way. I'm eager to win. And I've seen a lot in this league," Sanchez said. "I'm not married. I don't have a girlfriend. I don't have kids. I just want to play ball and I want to win. I really want to win.

"And I'm so lucky to be in a spot like this. So, you know, every waking moment, that's all I'm thinking about is what an opportunity this is, that I want to win and I want to play here."

Sanchez spent his first five NFL seasons with the Jets, helping them to the AFC championship game in his first two years by winning playoff games on the road against teams led by Manning, Tom Brady, Carson Palmer and Philip Rivers. But the fifth overall pick in the 2009 NFL draft out of Southern California eventually lost his job in New York and spent the last two seasons as a backup in Philadelphia.

Sanchez, who went 0-2 as a starter last season, said he's a better quarterback for all he's been through.

"I'm battle tested," he said. "I've been through the fire. I've been in some tough media markets, played in some great games. I've seen the highs and lows of this league. And I'm just eager to get started. ... This is an incredible opportunity."

The only other quarterback on the Broncos roster right now is Trevor Siemian, who took just one snap as a rookie last year, a kneel-down against Pittsburgh. Elway will likely draft another quarterback next month and could very well add another veteran either through free agency or another trade.

None of that would change Sanchez's mindset.

"Come on, let's go, let's compete, man," Sanchez said with a smile.

Sanchez, 37-35 as a starter, said that's the first thing Elway told him: come in and stake a claim on the starting job.

"And taking a call from him was pretty special," Sanchez said. "I got the guy's picture in my room growing up. He and Brett Favre, Dan Marino. I was like, `Oh my God. I got him on the phone. This is really happening.' So, as soon as that wore off, you think about what an opportunity this is."

Sanchez said the setbacks he's experienced in recent years never shook his confidence.

"I've just been hungry these last couple of years to just get an established, starting role ... and not wait for somebody to get hurt or for something to happen to go in the game. And so now I'm in a lot of ways in control of my own destiny here," he said. "To have that in my power for the first time in a few years, that's pretty special.

"And then to see what this could be, I mean, it's incredible. So, like I said, everything I've got I'm pouring into this thing. I'm looking forward and I'm definitely not looking back."

SIDEBAR

NFL executive acknowledges CTE-football head trauma link

WASHINGTON (AP)—An NFL official has acknowledged a link between football and the brain disease CTE for the first time.

Jeff Miller, the NFL's senior vice president for health and safety, spoke about the connection during an appearance Monday at a congressional committee's roundtable discussion about concussions.

Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Illinois) asked Miller: "Do you think there is a link between football and degenerative brain disorders like CTE?"

Miller began by referencing the work of Boston University neuropathologist Dr. Ann McKee, who has found CTE in the brains of 90 former pro football players.

"Well, certainly, Dr. McKee's research shows that a number of retired NFL players were diagnosed with CTE, so the answer to that question is certainly 'yes,' but there are also a number of questions that come with that," Miller said.

Schakowsky repeated the question: "Is there a link?"

"Yes. Sure," Miller responded.

The NFL has not previously linked playing football to chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a disease linked to repeated brain trauma and associated with symptoms such as memory loss, depression and progressive dementia. It can only be detected after death. Among the players found to have CTE in their brains were Hall of Famers Junior Seau and Ken Stabler.

During Super Bowl week, Dr. Mitch Berger, a member of the NFL's head, neck and spine committee, would not draw a direct line from football to CTE.

Miller appeared at a roundtable discussion of concussions before the House Committee on Energy & Commerce. ESPN first reported Miller's appearance before the committee.

Last month, Berger, chair of the department of neurological surgery at the University of California-San Francisco, repeatedly said that while the types of degenerative changes to the brain associated with CTE have been found in late football players, such signs have also been found "in all spectrums of life."

Tao, a protein that indicates the presence of CTE, "is found in brains that have traumatic injuries," Berger said, "whether it's from football, whether it's from car accidents, whether it's from gunshot wounds, domestic violence - it remains to be seen."

Miller said he was "not going to speak for Dr. Berger" when asked by Schakowsky about those comments.

Just before Miller spoke, McKee was asked the same question about the link between hits in football and CTE. She responded "unequivocally" there is, and went into details about her research findings.

Miller told the committee that the entire scope of the issue has to be addressed.

"You asked the question whether I thought there was a link," he said. "Certainly based on Dr. McKee's research, there's a link, because she's found CTE in a number of retired football players. I think that the broader point, and the one that your question gets to, is what that necessarily means and where do we go from here with that information."

Wilson, Weaver injuries give Angels rotation headaches

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—The Los Angeles Angels might have to fill two holes in the starting rotation, with Jered Weaver dealing with chronic neck pain and C.J. Wilson suffering another setback with his troublesome shoulder.

Wilson struggled in a Saturday bullpen session, and manager Mike Scioscia said Monday it's uncertain when he'll return to the mound. Wilson will throw off flat ground this week.

"Probably back him off from the mound until he feels like he's ready to take that next step," Scioscia said. "He's coming along a little slower."

Wilson first experienced shoulder tendinitis three weeks ago. The left-hander was shut down in August to undergo surgery to remove chips and spurs from his elbow. He hasn't faced a hitter in spring training, making it unlikely he'll be ready for the start of regular season.

Weaver was back in Los Angeles to see a spine specialist Monday -- the day he was supposed to make his third start. The right-hander's velocity has dropped considerably amid health issues, and he gave up three home runs in his last start.

The team announced late in the Angels' 10-2 win over Cincinnati on Monday that doctors confirmed an initial diagnosis: Weaver has a "mild, degenerative changes in the cervical spine." It's uncertain when he'll resume throwing.

"Some guys are a little behind and we're seeing that," Scioscia said. "But I think the prognosis for guys to get ready and be able to pitch the lion's share of the season is still good. But we have a little bit of depth that we might have to tap into."

The news was better for lefty Tyler Skaggs, who threw against hitters in Monday's workout for the first time since Tommy John surgery.

And slugger Albert Pujols continues his rapid recovery from a November foot surgery. Scioscia said Pujols, who has only served as designated hitter, should play first base before the end of spring training.

"I feel good and hopefully I'm going to progress and try to get better," Pujols said. "My target is to be ready for opening day."

NMSA, Fire draw first blood in gov't/biz caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association and Fire won the opening games in the 2016 Inter-Gov't/Business Basketball League last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMSA played in the first game and defeated Commonwealth Ports Authority, 70-60, while in the second game Fire edged Best Sunshine, 56-54.

Marvin Rabauliman lifted Fire to the close win, scoring 7 of the team's 10 points in the fourth quarter, including the squad's first three baskets in the final frame and a free throw that sealed the victory. John Santos tallied the 3 other markers for Fire. Rabauliman finished the game with a team-high 20 markers.

Paolo Sanguyo had 22 points on a losing effort for Best Sunshine, which went toe-to-toe with Fire before falling short in the end. Sanguyo registered all but 2 of Best Sunshine's 10 points in the fourth canto.

The Best Sunshine gunner started slow, making only 4 points in the first period, but his other teammates stepped up for their 18-12 advantage after the first 10 minutes of play.

Fire then began hitting shots from downtown in the second frame to grab the upper hand, 29-26. A triple from Josh Sablan put Fire on top at halftime. Fire also knocked in its last shot in the third canto from beyond the arc off Ben Lisua's conversion to maintain the lead, 46-44, going into the final frame.

In the fourth canto, Rabauliman took over, trading baskets with Sanguyo and drawing a little help from Santos to hand Fire the close win.

In the curtain-raiser, NMSA got double figures from three players to beat CPA. Nak Nakashima paced NMSA with his 14 markers, while Connie Camacho and Ben Jones added 13 and 12, respectively. Don Brennan was lone twin-digit scorer for CPA with his 15 points.

First Game

NMSA 70 — Nakashima 14, Camacho 13, Jones 12, J. Iguel 9, Rangamar 5, Babauta 4, L. Iguel 3, Villacrusus 2.

CPA 60 — Brennan 15, David Camacho 9, Dave Camacho 8, Iguel 6, Tudela 6, Toves 4, Aldan 2, Torres 2.

Second Game

Fire 56 — Rabauliman 20, Santos 7, Sablan 6, Lisua 6, Kaipay 4, Pua 3, Cruz 3, Iginoef 2.

Best Sunshine 54 — Sanguyo 22, Demapan 13, S. Fernandez 5, A. Fernandez 3, Wu 2, Tudela 2, Eugenio 2, Bautista 2.

Delta donates ticket to Hafa Adai 5K

Delta Air Lines is once again on board as one of the many sponsors for the upcoming Hafa Adai 5K to be held at Pacific Islands Club Saipan on April 19.

Delta Air Lines has donated one round trip economy ticket to Japan which will be raffled off at the end of the event.

"Delta Air Lines is pleased to continue our support of the Hafa Adai 5K once again this year. We hope our donation of a roundtrip ticket to Japan will entice more members of the community to come out and join this worthwhile event," said Delta Air Lines sales account executive Chris Concepcion. "We applaud the Pacific Islands Club for their support of the American Red Cross. We invite everyone to come out for a day of fun and exercise, all for a worthy cause."

The 5K fun run will start and finish at PIC Saipan and will feature five different coloring stations along the Beach Road route. Participants are encouraged to wear white attire so that the full effect of the coloring stations can be seen post-race. Volunteers will be celebrating each runner's arrival by greeting them with "holi powder." This is biodegradable mixture of corn starch and food coloring.

"This year will have more color, more prizes, more runners and more fun," said sports and events manager Keoni Ichihara. "The five color stations (blue, pink, green, yellow, and red) along with two water stations will line Beach Road starting at PIC and stretching all the way to Triple J Five Star Wholesale.

"Based on last year's response, we are expecting more participants this year. We will accept the first 1,200 entries into the event which will once again make this event the biggest in Saipan, "said Sports, Entertainment and Activities director Glenn Policare.

The first 500 paid entries will receive a free t-shirt at the event site.

Entry forms for the Hafa Adai 5K can be found at Triple J Motors, Gold's Gym, Boarderline or at the PIC Saipan lobby.

For more information, please contact Ichihara at 237-5147. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PIC Saipan's Sports, Entertainment and Activities director Glenn Policare, center, receives the cermonial round-trip ticket from Delta Air Lines sales account executive Chris Concepcion, fourth left, during the donation turnover ceremony at the Dela Air Lines counter yesterday.

PALAU

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from the Micronesian Games, there are limited opportunities for interaction between clubs. So it remains our goal to attract as many teams from the area to come and compete in the beautiful CNMI," Winkfield said.

"We are happy to welcome the teams to Saiwpan this year and we are looking forward to a great weekend of camaraderie, fun, and fast swimming," he added.

SSC is managed to host this international meet despite the damage left by Typhoon Soudelor, which forced the cancellation of some local competitions.

"With the support from the community, the hardworking parents, and the dedication of our swimmers, despite the setbacks we suffered from Soudelor, SSC is happy to host this year's meet and 37th Annual Saipan Ocean Swim," the SSC head coach said.

The ocean swim will be held this Sunday in the waters off World Resort. Swimmers in the U8 age group will swim the 600m course, while entries in the 9 to 10 and 11 to 12 will cover the one-kilometer and 1.3K courses, respectively. The remaining age groups will take on the longest course—the 2.5K—while the open course has a distance of 1.3K.

As for the swim meet, Thursday and Friday's sessions will begin at 4pm and 2pm respectively, with swimmers in the 11-and-over age group racing in the 1,500m freestyle, 200m backstroke, and 200m breaststroke (for Thursday), and 400m freestyle for 11-and-over and 100m butterfly, 50backstroke, 100m freestyle, 200m mixed medley relay, and 4x100m freestyle relay for all ages (for Friday).

The remaining 12 events—200m medley relay, 100m breaststroke, 800m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 400m individual medley, 100mbackstroke, 50mbreastrroke, 200m freestyle, 200m butterfly, 200m IM, 50m freestyle, and 200m freestyle relay, will be split in the morning and afternoon sessions this Saturday.

"SSC would like to thank the community for its unwavering support for the Saipan Swim Club. We also want to thank the Marianas Resort and Spa for the new renovations completed post Soudelor as well as their tireless maintenance of the pool and support and assistance with our swim meets. Thanks to Naked Fish for their support with the awards ceremony, Department of Boating Safety, and to all the volunteers who give their time and resources," Winkfield said.

LITTLE

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only three innings to cruise to victory. The winning squad played a solid offense in the first two innings and capitalized on the Pirates' defensive lapses to set up the rout.

At the top of the first, the Little Legals got nine of their 13 runs off the Pirates' miscues. In the second, the Little Legals added 11 more runs with nine of them were earned ones. In both innings, all Little Legals players on the batting order lineup went to bat and five of them batted twice in the first and six did the same in the second.

Gunner Sablan and Kaipo Dikito pitched for the Little Legals with the former staying on the mound for two innings and striking out five batters. Sablan allowed only three hits with no walks and his second and last strikeout at the bottom of the left Pirates runners stranded on second and third bases. Dikito closed out for the Little Legals and gave up no hit with two walks. He had two strikeouts, with his last one, leaving Pirates runners stuck at first and third base and handing the Little Legals a clean 3-0 record.

The Comets duplicated the Little Legals' perfect mark, as the former whipped McDonald's last Saturday, 19-6, and had a similar easy win over the Twins, 18-4, last March 6.

The Comets needed only four innings to beat the Twins, which were held to one run in the first three innings. While the Twins struggled to score, the Comets were consistent on offense, making fur runs apiece in the first three innings.

A two-run homer from Vincent Nakamura in the third inning highlighted the Comets' solid start and the team also collected five earned runs in that stretch. The Comets then finished off the Twins with a six-run top of the fourth, nullifying the three runs their foes gained at the bottom.

In other results in the Best Sunshine International-sponsored SLLB, the Twins bounced back from their Week 2 loss to the Comets with an 8-5 triumph over the Braves last Saturday. The Braves, on the other hand, came from a 12-1 victory against the IT&E Regulators last March 6.

SONICS

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Kristian Itaas paced the Sonics with his 15 points, while Mario Ordona chipped in 9, Henry Aguon led all scorers, firing 21 for the TX Warriors.

The Sonics and Warriors engaged in a close fight in the first half before the former gained control of the match in the third period after holding the latter to 2 points. The Sonics turned a 19-16 halftime lead to a 29-18 advantage after limiting the Warriors to a bucket in the penultimate frame. The Sonics never looked back from thereon.

In the other U15 match last weekend, the Ol'Aces caught fire early on, leading at 26-6 after the opening canto. Timmy Pangelinan, Rikko Saralu, and Dondi Ferrera hit double figures to tow the Ol'Aces to the lopsided win. Pangelinan and Saralu logged 12 points each, while Ferrera contributed 10. Six other Ol'Aces players scored in the rout, while only five made it to the board for Kanaka.

In the U18 game, the Junior Sonics leaned on their balance offense to pull off a 4-point win against Rollers Red.

Nine Junior Sonics players scored in the team's debut with Mark Mintac leading the way with his 8 markers, including 4 of the squad's last 6 points.

U15 DIVISION
First Game

Sonics 46 — Itaas 15, Ordona 9, Dionisio 4, Linaogo 4, Sabangan 4, Ben 2, Cadag 2.

TX Warriors 35 — Aguon 21, Sulap 4, Lifoifoi 4, Evangelista 4, Omar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-10, 19-16, 29-18, 46-35.

Third Game

Ol'Aces 78 — Pangelinan 12, Saralu 12, Ferrera 10, Atan 8, Maras 8, Sablan 6, Ngirarois 4, Soriano 4, Edrico 4.

Kanaka 18 — Lajava 6, Aiken 4, Kaipat 3, Blas 3, Norita 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-6, 42-10, 54-14, 78-18.

U18 DIVISION

Junior Sonics 36 — Mintac 8, Sto. Domingo 6, Malsarte 6, Bondoc 5, Gaviola 4, Manansala 2, L. Diyco 2, Dionisio 2, Bait 1.

Rollers Red 32 — Deleon Guerrero 11, Yu 5, Muna 4, Quitugua 4, Mamaril 3, Toves 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-14, 18-22, 28-28, 36-32.

Bike Leg of XTERRA Saipan

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Former Saipan resident Mieko Carey, right, and Russ Quinn take on the first uphill stage, in Navy Hill, of the bike course of last Saturday's XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Jerome Diyco tries to keep pace with the leaders.

Joe Miller of the Philippines pedals his way in the final uphill climb before taking on the downhill course going to Sound of Music.

South Korean Kaon Cho keeps his focus going up to Mt. Tapochau.

Nap Dizon tries to complete one of the punishing stages of the "Crown Jewel" of the XTERRA Championship series.

Tyce Mister again conquers the steep hill of Mt. Tapochau.

Wynne Brillo negotiates an uphill road.

Bob Ferrer reacts as he makes it to the final uphill stage at Mt. Tapochau.

Mark Isip poses for photographers as he makes it to the top of Mt. Tapochau.

Suns nip Wolves on Teletovic's last-minute trey

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Sanchez vows to start for Broncos

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Little Legals, Comets stay perfect

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Kagman Little Legals and Comets kept their clean slates in the Majors division of the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball after topping their respective foes over the weekend at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Little Legals, which won their debut against the Falcons last March 5, 5-4, gained two more victories last weekend, crushing the Pirates first, 27-0, before dominating the Ol'Aces, 14-5.

The Little Legals dueled the Pirates last Saturday and needed

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Little Legals runner stays on top of the second base during their Majors division game against the Pirates in the SLLB last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Sonics win; Ol'Aces rout Kanaka

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Ol'Aces' Timmy Pangelinan escapes with a fastbreak layup against Kanaka during their U15 division game in the Diaz youth caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Sonics got a pair of wins in the Inaugural Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League, while the Ol'Aces notched their second victory last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics topped Rollers Red, 36-32, in the lone U18 match last Monday, while the Junior Sonics outclassed TX Warriors, 46-35, in the first U15 game last Saturday. In the last U15 match in the opening week of the youth caging, the Ol'Aces eased past Kanaka, 78-18, for a fitting follow-up on their 57-55 debut win over Rollers last Friday.

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Palau swimmers return; Marshalls, Pohnpei bets join SSC tourneys, too

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Palau, the Marshall Islands, and Pohnpei will be represented in the 2016 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet that will kick off this Thursday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Palau is fielding its national team in the March 17 to 19 swim meet and is headed by coach Billy Brown. The Palau delegates arrived on Saipan last Saturday with Brown joined by Dirngulbai Misech, Osisang Chilton, Jericho Maido, Noel Keane, Keemo Kanai, Shae Gaymann, Lolmei Uong, and Klei Andreas.

"This is the third year in a row that the Palau team has come to Saipan. The kids have developed great friendships with our swimmers and compete hard against each other and we are happy that they have come back this year," SSC head coach Jacoby Winkfield told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Marshall Islands is also competing in the SSC swim meet for the third straight year, but will have only two swimmers in Kwajalein' Kathryn and Sydney Montgomery. Pohnpei, on the other hand, will be participating in the annual competition for the second consecutive year and will have four swimmers in Nicole Adams and Kestra, Kaleo, and Kyler Kihleng. The Pohnpei and Marshall Islands swimmers were scheduled to arrive on Saipan yesterday.

"It is great for swimming in Micronesia when we can get so many teams together to compete. Despite the fact that we are relatively close, it is very difficult to get teams in the region together to compete. Aside

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Swim Club members and coach Jacoby Winkfield, back row third from left, pose with Palau swimmers and their coach after the visitors arrived on island last Saturday.